

NATION&WORLD

EXTRA

INSIDE
Israeli military confirms hostage killed alongside father in Gaza, 3NN



CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Fire survivors feel forgotten

Altadena residents fear unequal resource allocation post-fire

Joe Brock
REUTERS

ALTADENA, Calif. – In the close-knit Los Angeles suburb of Altadena, where rows of neat bungalows once nestled in the shadow of the San Gabriel Mountains, smoldering ruins and the skeletal frames of burnt-out cars now lie.

While the fires that have devastated celebrity neighborhoods near Malibu have caught the world’s attention, a similar-sized blaze in Eaton Canyon, north of Los Angeles, has ravaged Altadena, a racially and eco-

nomically diverse community.

Black and Latino families have lived in Altadena for generations and the suburb is also popular with younger artists and engineers working at the nearby NASA rocket lab who were attracted by the small-town vibe and access to nature.

Many residents told Reuters they were concerned that government resources would be channeled towards high-profile areas popular with A-Listers, while insurance companies might shortchange less affluent

See ALTADENA, Page 5NN

ABOVE: A man looks for belongings in the remnants of his home Thursday in Altadena, Calif. RINGO CHIU/REUTERS

BELOW: A satellite image shows fire crews working in hot spots, north of Altadena, Calif. MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES /HANDOUT VIA REUTERS



Police likely took part in 1921 Tulsa massacre

Justice Department says there are ‘credible reports’

Jasper Ward
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Some law enforcement members participated in arson and murders that occurred during the 1921 race massacre in Tulsa, Oklahoma, according to a U.S. Department of Justice report released Friday.

The report, which was released in the final days of President Joe Biden’s administration, follows decades of advocacy efforts from massacre survivors, descendants and civil rights groups.

Efforts to rebuild the historic community have been underway for years but advocates have continued to seek justice – including reparations and an official federal review. The DOJ’s civil rights division launched the review and evaluation last September into the massacre, where white attackers killed as many as 300 people, mostly Black residents, living in Tulsa’s prosperous Greenwood neighborhood.



Viola Fletcher and Hughes Van survived the massacre of Tulsa’s black community in 1921. CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS FILE

But despite the gravity of the findings, the DOJ said “no avenue of prosecution now exists for crimes that occurred,” citing the expiration of relevant statutes of limitations and the youngest potential defendants being more than 115 years old.

The report found law enforcement officers, both from the Tulsa Police and the National Guard, “disarmed Black residents, confiscated their weapons and detained many in makeshift camps under armed guard.”

“In addition, there are credible reports that at least some law enforcement officers did more than arrest and detain Black men; some participated in murder, arson and looting,” the report said.

It pointed to witness testimony. An officer, according to the report, also “captured” six Black men in Greenwood “roped them together in single file, and led them running behind his motorcycle to detention at Convention Hall.”

See TULSA , Page 6NN

US hits Russian oil with toughest sanctions yet

Decision a bid to give Ukraine, Trump leverage

Timothy Gardner, Daphne Psaledakis, Nidhi Verma and Dmitry Zhdannikov
REUTERS

President Joe Biden’s administration imposed its broadest package of sanctions so far targeting Russia’s oil and gas revenues on Friday, in an effort to give Kyiv and Donald Trump’s incoming team leverage to reach a deal for peace in Ukraine.

The move is meant to cut Russia’s rev-

enues for continuing the war in Ukraine that has killed more than 12,300 civilians and reduced cities to rubble since Moscow invaded in February, 2022.


Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X that the measures announced on Friday will “deliver a significant blow” to Moscow. “The less revenue Russia earns from oil ... the sooner peace will be restored,” Zelenskyy added.

Daleep Singh, a top White House economic and national security adviser, said in a statement that the measures

See SANCTIONS , Page 6NN

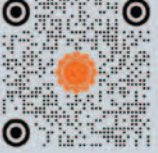
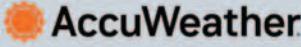


Police walk near a damaged store following shelling, which local officials called a Ukrainian military strike, in Donetsk, Russian-controlled Ukraine on Friday. The U.S. hopes sanctions on Russian oil will help pressure the country to end its war. STRINGER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



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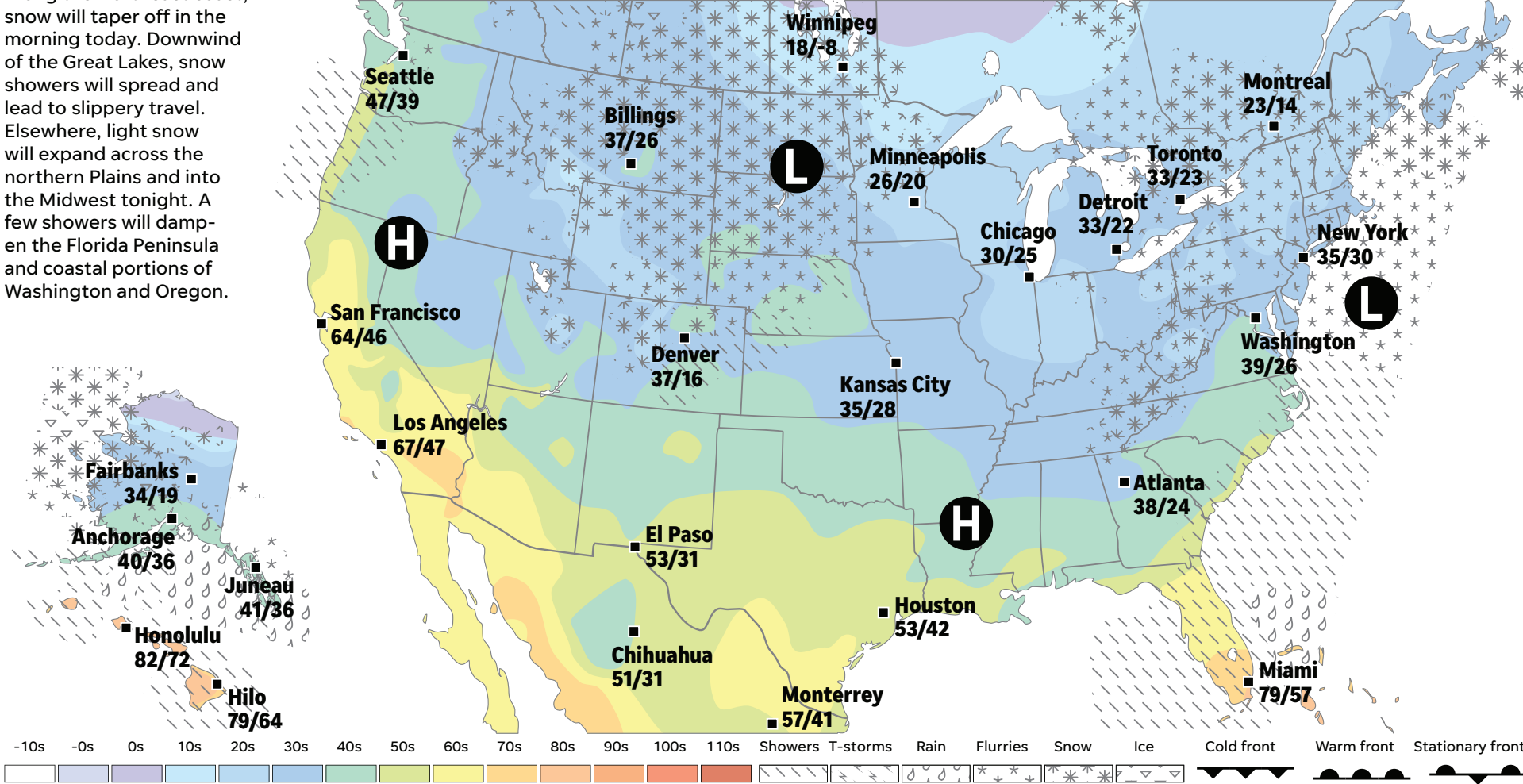


NATIONAL SUMMARY

Along the Northeast coast, snow will taper off in the morning today. Downwind of the Great Lakes, snow showers will spread and lead to slippery travel. Elsewhere, light snow will expand across the northern Plains and into the Midwest tonight. A few showers will dampen the Florida Peninsula and coastal portions of Washington and Oregon.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Saturday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



FRIDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 80 at Oceanside, CA
Low: -22 at Fairplay, CO
Precip: 2.14" at Pensacola, FL

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)
High: 115 at Urandangi, Australia
Low: -54 at Delyankir, Russia
Precip: 4.48" at Bega, Australia

TODAY IN HISTORY

A siege of extreme cold began in the Dakotas on Jan. 11, 1936. Langdon, N.D., failed to reach zero all day. Readings remained below zero for the next 41 days. The extremes were associated with drought.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What do snowflakes and dice have in common?

A: They both have six sides.

NATIONAL CITIES SATURDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Aberdeen, SD	37/9/sn	23
● Abilene, TX	55/31/s	38
● Accomac, VA	36/23/sn	31
● Adrian, MI	33/21/c	83
● Akron, OH	28/17/sf	63
● Alamogordo, NM	47/21/s	45
● Alexandria, VA	38/23/c	53
● Alliance, OH	29/17/sf	63
● Amarillo, TX	47/25/s	35
● Ames, IA	33/26/c	41
● Anderson, SC	44/19/pc	29
● Appleton, WI	28/25/c	51
● Asheville, NC	34/12/c	48
● Ashland, OH	28/18/c	69
● Athens, GA	40/18/pc	33
● Augusta, GA	47/22/pc	37
● Austin, TX	57/31/s	45
● Bartlesville, OK	42/23/pc	39
● Battle Creek, MI	31/23/sf	64
● Bedford, IN	30/20/pc	61
● Binghamton, NY	24/20/sn	35
● Bluffton, SC	50/30/r	28
● Bremerton, WA	45/35/c	49
● Brockton, MA	33/22/sn	49
● Brownwood, TX	57/26/s	42
● Burlington, IA	31/28/pc	33
● Burlington, NC	42/17/c	34
● Burlington, VT	23/17/sf	45
● Cambridge, OH	32/15/sf	53
● Camdenton, MO	41/28/pc	31
● Canandaigua, NY	29/26/sn	44
● Canton, OH	28/17/sf	64
● Carlsbad, NM	58/30/s	42
● Chambersburg, PA	33/20/c	53
● Cherry Hill, NJ	35/26/pc	54
● Cincinnati, OH	31/20/pc	51
● Clarksville, TN	35/22/s	50
● Coldwater, MI	31/22/sf	73
● Columbus, OH	30/20/sf	59
● Corning, NY	30/23/sn	41
● Corpus Christi, TX	61/43/s	37
● Daytona Beach, FL	63/42/sh	48
● Deming, NM	55/25/s	51
● DeRidder, LA	52/31/s	26
● Des Moines, IA	32/28/c	36
● Detroit, MI	33/22/c	83
● Devils Lake, ND	22/-5/sn	22
● Dover, NH	29/19/sn	45
● El Paso, TX	53/31/s	53
● Elmira, NY	30/23/sn	40
● Erie, PA	32/24/sf	56
● Eugene, OR	49/38/c	26

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Evansville, IN	31/21/c	40
● Fall River, MA	34/23/sn	50
● Farmington, NM	43/12/s	40
● Fayetteville, NC	47/23/pc	32
● Fond du Lac, WI	29/25/pc	53
● Fort Myers, FL	70/50/sh	57
● Fort Smith, AR	43/25/s	30
● Framingham, MA	32/22/sn	49
● Freeport, IL	31/27/c	51
● Fremont, OH	33/22/c	70
● Fort Collins, CO	38/17/pc	52
● Gadsden, AL	38/13/pc	31
● Gainesville, FL	59/33/r	50
● Galesburg, IL	31/27/pc	37
● Gastonia, NC	44/16/pc	49
● Glen Rose, TX	56/31/s	47
● Gonzales, LA	51/33/pc	50
● Great Falls, MT	33/24/sn	32
● Green Bay, WI	29/24/c	50
● Greenville, SC	43/18/pc	36
● Hackensack, NJ	36/29/sn	56
● Hagerstown, MD	33/20/c	50
● Hattiesburg, MS	50/26/pc	43
● Henderson, KY	31/19/s	50
● Hendersonville, NC	36/13/pc	51
● Herkimer, NY	27/19/sf	33
● Hillsdale, MI	30/21/sf	74
● Holland, MI	31/25/c	66
● Hornell, NY	30/25/sn	48
● Houma, LA	49/35/pc	44
● Howell, MI	32/21/c	76
● Hutchinson, KS	36/27/pc	38
● Hyannis, MA	34/26/sn	37
● Indianapolis, IN	29/22/pc	68
● Iowa City, IA	33/28/c	38
● Ithaca, NY	26/23/sn	36
● Jackson, MS	46/28/pc	44
● Jackson, TN	37/22/s	41
● Jacksonville, FL	58/29/r	48
● Jacksonville, NC	48/23/r	37
● Kent, OH	29/17/sf	65
● Kewanee, IL	32/27/pc	54
● Keyser, WV	32/20/sn	49
● Kinston, NC	46/22/r	33
● Knoxville, TN	34/17/sn	47
● Lafayette, IN	28/22/pc	55
● Lafayette, LA	50/34/pc	37
● Lakeland, FL	65/43/sh	47
● Lansing, MI	31/21/c	65
● Las Cruces, NM	50/27/s	52
● Lebanon, PA	32/25/c	51
● Leesburg, FL	62/40/sh	46

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Levittown, PA	35/26/sn	53
● Lincoln, IL	30/24/c	44
● Louisville, KY	33/22/pc	53
● Lubbock, TX	58/30/s	36
● Manitowoc, WI	30/26/c	51
● Mansfield, OH	28/18/c	65
● Marshall, NC	31/12/sn	37
● Marshfield, WI	24/21/c	50
● Massillon, OH	29/17/sf	64
● McLean, VA	37/22/c	53
● Melbourne, FL	65/44/sh	48
● Memphis, TN	36/27/s	51
● Middletown, NY	31/24/sf	44
● Milford, MA	32/20/sn	47
● Milwaukee, WI	31/27/pc	67
● Monroe, MI	32/21/c	81
● Monroe, LA	49/29/pc	34
● Montgomery, AL	46/23/pc	28
● Muncie, IN	28/22/c	58
● Murfreesboro, TN	34/15/pc	51
● Naples, FL	70/52/sh	53
● Nashville, TN	35/22/pc	52
● Neptune, NJ	37/27/sn	53
● New Bedford, MA	35/24/sn	37
● New Bern, NC	48/23/r	32
● New Philadelphia, OH	31/18/sf	62
● Newark, OH	32/16/sf	58
● Newton, NJ	32/25/sn	50
● New York, NY	35/30/sn	59
● Norwich, CT	34/21/sn	39
● Ocala, FL	60/36/r	49
● Oklahoma City, OK	43/26/s	35
● Opelousas, LA	50/32/pc	42
● Oshkosh, WI	28/23/pc	51
● Palm Beach, FL	73/54/pc	45
● Palm Springs, CA	75/51/s	55
● Panama City, FL	49/35/pc	36
● Pekin, IL	30/27/c	49
● Pensacola, FL	47/33/pc	31
● Peoria, IL	30/26/c	54
● Petersburg, VA	44/15/pc	50
● Phoenix, AZ	64/39/s	65
● Port Huron, MI	32/20/sf	64
● Portsmouth, NH	30/21/sn	30
● Poughkeepsie, NY	32/20/sn	37
● Providence, RI	32/24/sn	39
● Pueblo, CO	42/16/s	44
● Quincy, MA	33/23/sn	52
● Redding, CA	62/45/s	49
● Reno, NV	43/21/s	54
● Ravenna, OH	29/17/sf	66
● Richmond, IN	29/18/c	67

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Rochester, NY	31/25/sn	50
● Rockford, IL	30/26/c	51
● Ruidoso, NM	48/16/s	46
● Salem, OR	49/40/c	36
● Salina, KS	37/28/c	35
● Salinas, CA	63/35/s	64
● Salisbury, MD	35/20/sn	36
● San Angelo, TX	56/31/s	35
● Sarasota, FL	66/47/sh	47
● Savannah, GA	51/26/r	32
● Sheboygan, WI	30/27/pc	52
● Shelby, NC	41/16/pc	50
● Sherman, TX	45/29/pc	40
● Shreveport, LA	51/32/s	30
● Silver City, NM	53/20/s	51
● Sioux Falls, SD	32/18/c	28
● Somerset, PA	24/19/sn	55
● Somerville, NJ	36/23/sn	52
● South Bend, IN	30/23/sf	55
● Spartanburg, SC	44/19/pc	51
● Springfield, IL	29/25/c	48
● Springfield, MO	39/27/pc	39
● St. Augustine, FL	60/38/r	43
● St. Cloud, MN	23/17/sn	25
● St. George, UT	52/27/s	31
● Staunton, VA	35/7/c	39
● Stevens Point, WI	26/22/c	51
● Stockton, CA	64/36/s	70
● Stroudsburg, PA	32/25/sn	51
● Stuart, FL	70/49/c	47
● Sturgis, MI	31/21/sn	71
● Tallahassee, FL	49/29/c	39
● Thibodaux, LA	49/34/pc	51
● Topeka, KS	36/29/c	35
● Tuscaloosa, AL	42/22/pc	41
● Utica, NY	25/15/sf	32
● Ventura, CA	60/49/s	72
● Victorville, CA	60/26/s	52
● Vineland, NJ	34/21/sn	51
● Visalia, CA	58/32/s	81
● Washington, DC	39/26/c	51
● Watertown, SD	33/11/sn	28
● Wausau, WI	25/22/c	49
● Waynesboro, PA	34/19/c	52
● White Plains, NY	33/26/sn	51
● Wichita Falls, TX	52/28/s	27
● Wilmington, DE	35/23/pc	51
● Wilmington, NC	51/24/r	65
● Wisconsin Rapids, WI	25/23/c	52
● Wooster, OH	29/17/sf	62
● Worcester, MA	30/20/sn	38
● York, PA	33/22/c	52

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Saturday High/low/W	Sunday High/low/W
● Acapulco	79/69/sh	80/69/c
● Addis Ababa	76/53/pc	73/50/pc
● Algiers	69/52/sh	57/47/sh
● Amman	55/45/s	59/40/pc
● Amsterdam	40/33/pc	42/31/c
● Ankara	51/37/c	51/42/r
● Asuncion	98/70/c	96/69/s
● Athens	64/49/c	65/51/pc
● Auckland	74/57/s	74/56/s
● Baghdad	60/43/sh	64/43/s
● Bangkok	84/63/s	80/62/pc
● Beijing	35/18/pc	38/13/s
● Beirut	66/56/s	67/55/s
● Belgrade	42/27/pc	37/26/pc
● Berlin	33/27/c	34/21/s
● Bogota	70/43/c	71/42/pc
● Brussels	34/28/c	37/25/pc
● Bucharest	45/26/s	39/26/c
● Budapest	39/29/pc	38/27/s
● Buenos Aires	80/70/s	82/73/s
● Cairo	68/55/pc	71/54/s

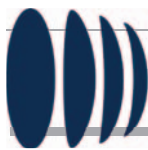
	Saturday High/low/W	Sunday High/low/W
● Cape Town	77/65/s	77/61/c
● Caracas	91/74/pc	90/75/s
● Casablanca	69/50/s	69/45/pc
● Colombo	87/75/t	86/76/sh
● Copenhagen	35/30/pc	35/28/s
● Damascus	61/39/s	60/37/s
● Dublin	44/32/sh	48/45/c
● Geneva	39/28/pc	36/26/s
● Guatemala City	78/58/s	79/60/pc
● Hanoi	66/46/pc	71/45/s
● Harare	82/63/t	86/61/t
● Havana	83/66/pc	79/65/pc
● Helsinki	32/22/sn	25/21/s
● Hong Kong	64/52/pc	65/56/pc
● Jakarta	88/76/sh	89/76/t
● Jerusalem	55/47/r	58/45/pc
● Johannesburg	72/61/t	73/59/t
● Kabul	38/17/pc	38/16/s
● Khartoum	82/57/pc	82/61/pc
● Kyiv	36/27/pc	33/27/c
● Kingston	88/76/s	88/74/pc

	Saturday High/low/W	Sunday High/low/W
● La Paz	55/41/r	55/38/r
● Lagos	92/73/pc	91/75/pc
● Lima	77/67/c	77/67/c
● Lisbon	65/54/c	64/45/pc
● London	36/26/pc	40/33/pc
● Madrid	64/34/pc	59/24/s
● Manila	86/74/sh	85/74/sh
● Mexico City	63/50/sh	66/48/c
● Milan	48/30/pc	46/25/s
● Mombasa	91/76/t	92/76/pc
● Montevideo	77/60/s	78/63/s
● Montreal	23/14/sf	25/19/pc
● Moscow	41/29/r	33/27/pc
● Nairobi	80/61/t	81/62/c
● New Delhi	64/53/sh	62/53/c
● Panama City	89/72/pc	91/73/pc
● Paris	38/30/pc	38/27/pc
● Port-au-Prince	89/63/s	88/64/s
● Rio de Janeiro	81/72/s	79/71/c
● Riyadh	73/51/pc	69/49/sh
● Rome	60/46/sh	53/39/c

	Saturday High/low/W	Sunday High/low/W
● San Jose	84/64/pc	84/65/pc
● San Salvador	87/63/s	85/64/s
● Santiago	93/59/c	87/58/c
● Sao Paulo	80/65/pc	74/62/sh
● Sarajevo	35/23/pc	31/25/c
● Shanghai	44/30/pc	54/30/pc
● Singapore	80/74/t	80/76/t
● Stockholm	29/21/pc	26/15/s
● Sydney	76/69/t	80/70/sh
● Taipei	57/48/c	65/49/s
● Tegucigalpa	83/62/s	82/61/pc
● Tehran	55/41/s	55/39/pc
● Tokyo	54/38/s	49/40/c
● Toronto	33/23/c	33/28/c
● Tunis	69/53/s	58/47/r
● Vancouver	45/38/pc	46/31/pc
● Vienna	38/32/pc	36/29/pc
● Warsaw	33/29/c	33/26/sn
● Yerevan	37/24/pc	39/22/pc
● Zagreb	40/19/s	39/24/pc
● Zurich	36/23/s	35/23/pc

● Denotes possible travel delays Saturday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



CHAD

Drunken Siege

Eighteen assailants and one presidential guard died during an attack on the presidential complex of Chad amid political turmoil in the central African nation, according to the Guardian.

Officials said 24 assailants attempted to storm the presidential palace in Chad's capital N'Djamena armed with knives and machetes Wednesday evening. The "destabilization attempt" happened while President Mahamat Déby Itno was inside, said Foreign Affairs Minister Abderaman Koulamallah.

The attackers arrived at the complex in a few vehicles and stabbed the four entrance guards, killing one and injuring two. Following, they then walked into the presidency where other guards shot at them, killing 18 and detaining six others, reported the Guardian.

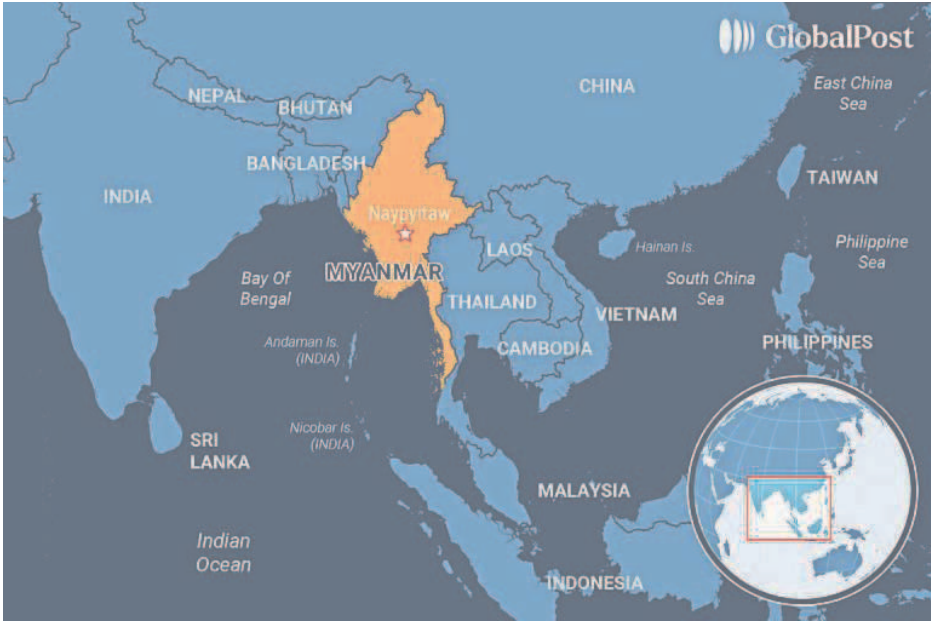
Koulamallah said that the assault was probably not a terrorist attack, as the attackers were local youths from N'Djamena, reported the Associated Press.

He also referred to the attackers as drunk "Pieds Nickeles," referring to a French comic featuring unlucky crooks.

The attack came a week after parliamentary elections that were boycotted by the main opposition party, Les Transformateurs.

Chad has been grappling with a period of political turmoil before and after the controversial May presidential elections that resulted in a win for Déby Itno, who led the country as interim president during a period of military rule that followed his father's death. His father, Idriss Déby Itno, had ruled Chad since a military coup in the early 1990s but was killed by rebels in 2021.

In November, Chad also ended a defense cooperation agreement with France, leading to the withdrawal of 1,000 French military personnel.



MYANMAR

Video game raises funds

In Myanmar, rebels play a video game called SpringBees to raise money for the civilian-led exiled National Unity Government that opposes the military junta which seized control of the Southeast Asian country in a 2021 coup.

"It provides support for our cause while offering a way to unwind," a player in combat fatigues told Deutsche Welle. "That's what keeps me coming back to it."

Three ethnic-based armies have gained ground against the Myanmar central government's forces. The People's Defense Forces, who are affiliated with the National Unity Government, are fighting intensely, too.

These gains have put pressure on the junta under President Min Aung Hlaing, Newsweek wrote. The country controls less than a quarter of the country now. Fighting has also displaced at least 3.4 million people. Corruption is rampant. The weak state is failing to uphold basic services, like sanitation that would prevent outbreaks of cholera, the Bangkok Post noted.

The rebels' victory still appears to be a distant possibility, however. As World Politics Review explained, the two major rebel groups are only loosely coordinating with each other. The ethnic forces seek independence for their communities. The National Unity Government wants to restore the government ousted in the 2021 coup. The junta, meanwhile, has powerful patrons in China and Russia, two countries that have provided crucial aid in its times of trouble.

For example, as the Conversation noted, the Chinese government and Myanmar's military junta are establishing a joint security company to protect Chinese projects and personnel from the civil war. "This development is extremely concerning and does not bode well for any of the players involved," it said.

Min Aung Hlaing faces other issues, mainly because he oversaw a genocidal campaign against the Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority from 2016 through 2017. The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for his arrest. At the same time, some Rohingya are slipping back into the country to fight the junta, Reuters noted.

Today Aung San Suu Kyi, who endured years of house arrest under the junta, is in solitary confinement in jail, the Independent wrote.

DISCOVERIES

Twins weren't always a novelty

Today, twins account for about three percent of live births in the United States, with modern fertility treatments contributing to their rise.

While such births are still a novelty, tens of millions of years ago they were the norm for our primate ancestors, according to a new study.

Scientists from Western Washington University and Yale University found that some 60 million years ago prehistoric primates would regularly give birth to twins, a finding that challenges the long-held belief that singleton births were the standard among primates.

The research team studied litter size across nearly 1,000 mammal species, as well as used mathematical models and data from public databases to get a better picture of the evolutionary history of primate reproduction, Interesting Engineering noted.

Their findings showed that primates initially favored twin births but shifted to singletons around 50 million years ago, coinciding with a critical period in our evolutionary journey: Encephalization, or the expansion of brain size.

Researchers explained that this life history trait is "significantly correlated with gestation length." They added that multifetal pregnancies – namely, twins or even triplets – were associated with "smaller brains and body sizes, short gestation, and rapid growth."

"We propose that the switch from twins to singletons was critical for the evolution of large human babies with large brains that were capable of complex learning as infants and young children," they wrote in the Conversation.

The team found that the transition from twins to singletons occurred multiple times across primate lineages, underscoring the adaptive advantage of birthing one larger, more developed baby.

Israeli airstrikes hit targets in Yemen

Confirms hostage killed alongside father in Gaza

Maytaal Angel
REUTERS

JERUSALEM – Israel confirmed on Friday that the remains of a hostage found killed in Gaza were of Hamza Ziyadne, the son of deceased hostage Youssef Ziyadne, whose body was found beside him in an underground tunnel near the southern city of Rafah.

Israeli forces continued on Friday to pound Gaza, with Palestinian medics saying at least 15 people had been killed, including a journalist for Cairo-based Al-Ghad TV who had been covering an incident at Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

There was no immediate comment on the latest fighting from Israel's military, which earlier announced it had concluded forensic tests to identify Hamza Ziyadne, an Israeli Bedouin taken hostage by Hamas-led fighters alongside his father and two of his siblings.

It said earlier this week that the body of Hamza's father Youssef had been recovered close to those of armed guards from Islamist group Hamas or another Palestinian militant group and there were indications that Hamza may also have been killed.

There was no immediate comment from Hamas although the group's armed wing told Qatar's al-Jazeera news network that most of the hostages in northern Gaza were now considered missing because of intense Israeli strikes there.

The left-leaning Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that the Israeli military has said it suspected Hamza and Youssef were killed in one of its strikes, given their bodies were found next to those of dead militants. A military spokesperson said Youssef Ziyadne had not died recently.

The military declined to comment on the cause of the hostages' deaths.

Efforts to end fighting

Mediators Qatar, the United States



Relatives and friends of Israeli hostage Hamza al-Zayadna carry his coffin during his funeral in Israel's southern bedouin city of Rahat on Friday. Following a forensic examination, the Israeli military said it notified the Hamza's family that he "was killed in Hamas captivity." AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

and Egypt are making new efforts to reach a deal to halt the fighting in Gaza and free the remaining hostages before President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20.

The Hostages and Missing Family Forum, which represents most of the families, renewed its call on the Israeli government to conclude a deal with Hamas and bring back the hostages, saying Youssef and Hamza Ziyadne could have been saved through an earlier agreement.

The negotiations have been at an impasse for a year over two key issues. Hamas has said it will only free its remaining hostages if Israel agrees to end the war and withdraw all its troops from Gaza. Israel says it will not end the war until Hamas is dismantled and all hostages are free.

Israeli defense minister Israel Katz on Friday instructed the military to present a plan for the "total defeat" of Hamas in Gaza if it does not release the hostages before Trump's inauguration. It was not clear how such a plan would differ from existing Israeli military plans.

"We must not be dragged into a war

of attrition against Hamas in Gaza, while the hostages remain in the tunnels, putting their lives at risk and suffering severely," he told senior commanders, according to a defense ministry statement.

Israel launched its assault on the Gaza Strip after Hamas fighters stormed across its borders in October 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then, more than 46,000 people have been killed in Gaza, according to Palestinian health officials, with much of the enclave laid waste and most of its people facing acute shortages of food and medicine due to Israel's actions, humanitarian agencies say.

Israel bombs power station, ports in Yemen

Israeli warplanes bombed a power station and two ports in Houthi-controlled Yemen on Friday in retaliation for Houthi drone and missile strikes against Israel, and pro-Houthi media said at least one person had been killed and nine wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Iran-backed Houthi militia were "paying and will continue to pay a heavy price for their aggression against us."

The strikes hit the Red Sea port of Ras Issa and the major port of Hodeidah and the Hezyaz central power station in Yemen's capital Sanaa, and Harf Sufyan District in Amran province also came under air attack, said Al Masirah TV, the main news outlet run by the Houthis.

An employee at the Ras Issa port was killed and six others were injured, while three people, including a worker, were wounded in the strikes on Hezyaz, the outlet said.

The Israeli military said more than 20 aircraft took part in the attack, dropping around 50 bombs and missiles in an operation which required airborne refuelling during the 1,240-mile flight.

Earlier, British security firm Ambrey said airstrikes on the Ras Issa port targeted oil storage facilities in the vicinity of shipping berths, though no merchant vessels were reported to have been damaged.

The supply of petroleum derivatives is stable, the Houthi government spokesperson Hashem Sharaf Eddine said after the attack.

An Israeli military statement confirmed the targets, saying the power station served as a "central source of energy for the Houthi terrorist regime in its military activities." It added that the targets struck were examples of the "Houthis' exploitation of civilian infrastructure."

Within the past 48 hours, the Houthis have fired three drones at Israel's commercial hub Tel Aviv and more drones and missiles at the U.S. aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman in the Red Sea, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said.

The Houthis have targeted Israel, hundreds of miles to the north as well as international shipping in waters near Yemen since November 2023 in support of Palestinian militants at war with Israel in Gaza.

Israel has responded with airstrikes in Houthi-held areas of Yemen, as have British and U.S. forces in the region.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Wall St. drops on optimistic job data

Johann M Cherian, Sukriti Gupta and Carolina Mandl
REUTERS

U.S. stocks sold off on Friday, with the S&P 500 erasing its 2025 gains, after an upbeat jobs report stoked fresh inflation fears, reinforcing bets that the Federal Reserve will be cautious in cutting interest rates this year.

Wall Street’s main indexes closed their second consecutive week in the red.

“We started the year on the wrong foot,” said Sam Stovall, market strategist at CFRA Research, commenting on the impact of a hotter-than-expected job data on equities. He added the environment for stocks could become “quite challenging.”

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 696.75 points, or 1.63%, to 41,938.45; the S&P 500 lost 91.21 points, or 1.54%, to 5,827.04; and the Nasdaq Composite lost 317.25 points, or 1.63%, to 19,161.63.

The domestically focused small-cap Russell 2000 index also fell 2.27%, slipping into correction territory as it was down 10.4% from its Nov. 25 closing high. Wall Street’s fear gauge hit a three-week high on Friday.

A Labor Department report showed job growth unexpectedly accelerated in December while the unemployment rate fell to 4.1% as the labor market ended the year on a strong note.

A hotter-than-expected job gain could translate into faster economic expansion, leading to a rise in prices. To contain a still-elevated inflation, the Fed could be forced to take a more conservative stance on rate cuts this year.

Traders see the central bank lowering borrowing costs for the first time in June and then staying steady for the rest of the year, according to the CME Group’s FedWatch Tool.

Brokerages also revised their Fed rate cut forecasts, with BofA Global Research forecasting a potential rate hike.

However, Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee said there is no evidence the economy is overheating again, adding he still expects it will be appropriate to lower rates further.

Pressuring stocks, the yield on the 30-year Treasury note touched 5% – its highest since November 2023, but slightly retreated to 4.966%.

Most of the 11 S&P 500 sectors declined, except for the energy index, which rose 0.34%.

Adding to the dour mood, a University of Michigan survey showed consumer sentiment dropped to 73.2 in January from the previous month.

Fresh inflation worries have taken the spotlight, compelling the Fed to issue a cautious forecast on monetary easing last month, as it anticipates policy changes on trade and immigration under President-elect Donald Trump, who is expected to take office in nine days’ time.

On Jan. 15, investors will closely watch the release of the monthly consumer price index, which could spark further volatility if it comes in higher than expectations.

“Markets would sell off meaningfully because all of a sudden the Fed is probably in a position not just to not cut rates and support markets, but to actually hike rates,” said Bryant Van-Cronkhite, senior portfolio manager at Allspring.

Chip stocks such as Nvidia dropped roughly 3%, weighed down by a report that the U.S. could announce new export regulations as early as Friday.

Constellation Energy soared 25.16% after agreeing to buy privately held natural gas and geothermal company Calpine Corp for \$16.4 billion, while Constellation Brands slid 17.09% after cutting its sales and profit forecasts.

Walgreens Boots Alliance jumped 27.55% after reporting an upbeat quarterly profit.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 4.24-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and by a 3.32-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P 500 posted six new 52-week highs and 32 new lows, while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 39 new highs and 211 new lows.

Volume on U.S. exchanges was 16.24 billion shares, compared with the 12.31 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

EXPLAINER

What happens after the TikTok ban takes effect?

Company staffers in US unsure of employment

Sheila Dang
REUTERS

The U.S. Supreme Court justices on Friday expressed skepticism about a challenge from TikTok and its Chinese parent company ByteDance against a law signed by President Joe Biden, which would force the sale or ban of the popular short-video app by Jan. 19 in the United States.

Some of the justices seemed to acknowledge Congress’ national security concerns over TikTok, given its ownership by what lawmakers deemed a foreign adversary.

Here’s what could happen on Jan. 19.

What happens to app?

New users will not be able to download TikTok from app stores and existing users will not be able to update the app, because the law prohibits any entity from facilitating the download or maintenance of the TikTok application. In a Dec. 13 letter, U.S. lawmakers told Apple and Alphabet’s Google, which operate the two main mobile app stores, that they must be ready to remove TikTok from their stores on Jan. 19.

Cloud service provider Oracle could see some disruption to its work with TikTok. Oracle hosts TikTok’s U.S. user data on its servers, reviews the app’s source code and delivers the app to the app stores.

Google declined to comment, while Oracle and Apple did not respond to requests for comment.

How will users be affected?

TikTok’s 170 million users in the U.S. will likely still be able to use the app because it is already downloaded on their phones, experts say. But over time, without software and security updates, the app will become unusable.

Some users have begun posting TikTok videos instructing others on how to use virtual private networks, which mask an internet user’s location, as a way to circumvent the possible ban.

Content creators who have built businesses from their TikTok followings are preparing for the worst. Nadya Okamoto, who has 4.1 million followers and founded August, a menstrual products brand, said TikTok helped her business grow organically through viral videos. A TikTok ban could force her and other small businesses to spend more on marketing and raise their costs.

“It’s very stressful,” she said. “If TikTok goes away, we’ll be OK, but it is going to be a hard hit.”



Supporters of Tiktok livestream in front of the US Supreme Court in Washington. The Supreme Court on Friday began hearing TikTok’s appeal of a law that would force its Chinese owner to sell the video-sharing platform or shut it down in the United States. MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

What happens to TikTok’s employees?

TikTok’s 7,000 employees in the U.S. are still trying to figure out their fate. After a U.S. appeals court upheld the sell-or-ban law on Dec. 6, pessimism spread among staffers who began worrying about layoffs, said one current employee.

But the company has continued to make job offers for new roles, prompting some confused job seekers to seek advice on Blind, an anonymous forum for employees to discuss companies.

One user posted on Blind that they received a job offer from ByteDance in San Jose, California, starting in February.

Others commented on the post, counseling the user to accept the offer and use it as leverage in other interviews.

“I signed the offer and will wait and watch how the situation unfolds,” the user said in the Blind post.

What about advertisers?

TikTok’s U.S. ad revenue is expected to total \$12.3 billion in 2024, according to research firm eMarketer, and while that is much smaller than Instagram owner Meta Platforms, advertisers say TikTok’s devoted user base means some brands will try to advertise beyond Jan. 19.

“The ongoing assumption is the app might not be updatable, but you’ll see a groundswell of usage,” said Craig Atkinson, CEO of digital marketing agency Code3. The app’s e-commerce feature TikTok Shop, which lets users pur-

chase products directly from videos, has no direct competitor that advertisers can easily switch to, Atkinson said, adding that his agency was signing new contracts with clients to build TikTok Shop campaigns even as of late December.

Some advertisers may continue spending beyond Jan. 19 on TikTok and reevaluate if the app sees declining usage or performance, said Jason Lee, executive vice president of brand safety at media agency Horizon Media.

Are there potential buyers?

TikTok has repeatedly said it cannot be sold from ByteDance. That hasn’t deterred billionaire businessman Frank McCourt, a former owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team who said he has secured \$20 billion in verbal commitments from a consortium of investors to bid for TikTok.

McCourt has not yet spoken with ByteDance, but said he believes the Supreme Court will uphold the law requiring TikTok’s divestment, after which the parent company would be more open to sale discussions.

McCourt and his team have had “preliminary conversations” with members of the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump, who had tried to ban TikTok during his first term in the White House but has since reversed his views, and are also seeking a CEO to lead the app. McCourt’s business plan for TikTok includes migrating the app onto open-source technology and earning revenue through e-commerce and licensing data for AI training.

Biden proposes cybersecurity reforms

Aj Vicens
REUTERS

DETROIT – President Joe Biden is calling for tighter cybersecurity standards for federal agencies and contractors in a new executive order due to be published in the coming days, pushing reforms designed to address repeated Chinese-linked cyber operations and cybercriminal operations, according to a draft of the order seen by Reuters. The order is set to land in the waning days of Biden’s presidency, during which several high-profile, Chinese-linked hacks occurred, according to the U.S. government and cybersecurity research groups. The alleged activity targeted critical infrastructure, government emails, major telecom firms and, most recently, the U.S. Treasury Department. Beijing has rejected the allegations.

Biden’s proposal calls for tougher standards for secure software development, the ability to verify that those standards have been met, and a process for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to evaluate the process, according to the draft.

Vendors will have to provide secure software development documentation to be evaluated and validated by CISA through the agency’s software attestation program. Attestations that “fail validation” could be referred to the attorney general for “action as appropriate,” according to the draft.

Tom Kellermann, senior vice presi-

“They’re already here. We are dealing with literally an insurgency across critical infrastructure and U.S. government agencies that has been stoked by the Russians and Chinese.”

Tom Kellermann
Senior Vice President of Cyber Strategy, Contrast Security

dent of cyber strategy at cybersecurity company Contrast Security, said the attestation provisions do not go far enough but that he “applauds” the efforts to push more secure software development. The timelines for implementation laid out by the order seem “arbitrary,” he said, given the immediacy of the threats from China, Russia and powerful cybercriminal syndicates.

“They’re already here,” Kellermann said. “We are dealing with literally an insurgency across critical infrastructure and U.S. government agencies that has been stoked by the Russians and Chinese.” The order also mandates the development of guidelines to securely manage access tokens and cryptographic keys used by cloud providers. Chinese-linked hackers abused this method to access email accounts used



President Joe Biden’s cybersecurity proposal calls for tougher standards for secure software development and the ability to verify that those standards have been met. ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

by top U.S. government officials in May of 2023, Microsoft said at the time.

Brandon Wales, vice president of cybersecurity strategy at cybersecurity company SentinelOne and formerly a top CISA official, told Reuters the order builds on ongoing work over the last five years to develop capabilities, get the right authorities, and funding. While the threat from China looms large – a “pacing threat” that is “driving the urgency and focus across the government” – the U.S. government and the private sector face a plethora of threats that need to be addressed.

The White House declined to comment and CISA did not respond to a request for comment.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



A firefighter watches as a tree falls Friday in an area affected by Eaton Fire near Mount Wilson as the wildfires burn in the Los Angeles area. FRED GREAVES/REUTERS

Firefighters, fire victims flock to Rose Bowl camp

Aid center relocated to accommodate resources

Chad Terhune
REUTERS

PASADENA, Calif. – Thousands of jubilant fans packed Southern California’s Rose Bowl on New Year’s Day for a college football playoff game.

Nine days later, hundreds of firefighters and other emergency workers were streaming in for a grim task and making this Pasadena landmark their temporary home for the foreseeable future.

Dozens of firefighters were sleeping on Friday morning in small tents outside the stadium, exhausted from battling the nearby Eaton fire overnight.

Firetrucks from Sacramento, Lake Tahoe and other areas drove in and joined the sprawling base camp. Workers hustled to raise tents to serve meals

and police directed traffic.

A.J. Lester, a spokesperson for the L.A. County Fire Department, said about 1,600 fire personnel were already assigned to the nearby Eaton fire plaguing Altadena and Pasadena and the number of firefighters is “only going to grow.”

That need for more space sparked confusion and chaos on Friday morning across the street, in another Rose Bowl parking lot. A makeshift donation and aid center had sprung up there and hundreds of people flocked to the site early on Friday.

Residents who lost their homes and had to abruptly evacuate filled garbage bags with clothes, snacks, diapers and bottled water strewn across the pavement in giant piles. Others lined up for free breakfast burritos or bent down to pet a therapy dog named Rigby.

Then by midmorning as the crowd grew ever larger, Pasadena motorcycle

police officers told volunteers and residents the aid station had to move immediately to make way for more “fire resources.”

Volunteers scrambled to box up clothes and food and carry them to cars and trucks nearby. Police said the aid center had to relocate to a nearby office building parking lot.

“Stop looking and start packing,” aid worker Damita Goodall yelled to the crowd. “Who’s in charge of those pants and blankets?”

Another volunteer scanned the scene, hands on his hips, saying “There’s more stuff to do than bodies to do it.”

An hour later, most of the area had been cleared but people continued to drive in wanting to donate household goods, clogging the main entry road needed for firetrucks and other heavy equipment.

Earlier on Friday, Denise Doss, 63, was waiting in line for food at the Rose

Bowl parking lot and said she was anxious to return to her destroyed home in Altadena to see if anything was salvageable.

She tried returning on Thursday and again on Friday morning but police turned her away at a checkpoint. They told her the area was still unsafe due to embers burning and the potential for ruptured gas lines.

“I want to see if anything is there,” Doss said. “At least to say goodbye until we can rebuild. I will let God lead me.”

Doss lost the Altadena home she shared with her 86-year-old father as well as her home business selling cakes.

Everett Wilson, 78, was also trying to get back into his house in Altadena on Friday after picking up shirts and pants from the donation pile. His home escaped the flames but he worries about looters breaking in.

“I just don’t want someone to take my stuff,” Wilson said.

Altadena

Continued from Page 1NN

households that do not have the financial means to contest fire claims.

“They’re not going to give you the value of your house ... if they do, you really have to fight for it,” said Kay Young, 63, her eyes welling up with tears as she stared at a sprawl of smoking rubble, the remnants of a home that has been in her family for generations.

Inez Moore, 40, whose family home in Altadena was destroyed by the fire, said communities like theirs would likely suffer financially more than wealthier suburbs because many residents do not have the resources or experience to navigate complex bureaucratic systems.

“You’re going to have some folks who are not going to get as much as they deserve, and some folks who may get more than actually they need,” said Moore, a lecturer at California State University.

Reuters contacted major home insurance companies in California for comment.

State Farm, Nationwide, Allstate, Mercury, Liberty Mutual and Farmers responded with statements saying they were working with policyholders to help them make claims, without addressing specific concerns raised by Altadena residents.

Moore, Young and several other residents told Reuters they did not see any fire engines in Altadena in the early hours of Wednesday when they fled flames engulfing their community, fueling a resentment that their neighborhood was not a priority.



A satellite image shows homes along W Loma Alta Drive before the fires in Altadena, Calif. MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

“You’re going to have some folks who are not going to get as much as they deserve, and some folks who may get more than actually they need.”

Inez Moore Lecturer at California State University

“We didn’t get help here. I don’t know where everybody was,” said Jocelyn Tavares, 32, as her sister and daughter dug through the smoking debris of a life upended – a child’s bicycle half-melted, a solitary cup miraculously spared from the flames.

Los Angeles County Fire Department

did not respond to calls and emails requesting comment.

Since breaking out on Tuesday night, the Eaton Fire has killed at least five people and had grown to 13,690 acres as of Thursday night, consuming much of the northern half of Altadena, an unincorporated community of some 40,000

people.

As late as 1960, Altadena was almost entirely white. As new highways built in urban renewal projects tore apart Los Angeles neighborhoods, African American families began buying homes in what remained for decades a relatively affordable community.

Residents told Reuters they paid around \$50,000 for a three-bedroom home in Altadena in the 1970s. The same house would cost more than \$1 million today.

Altadena residents voiced concerns that the area may become more gentrified if families who have lived here for generations could not secure insurance payouts to cover the cost to rebuild a home that they bought cheap decades ago.

Despite the widespread wreckage, many locals were upbeat about the community rising from the ashes, sharing tales of narrow escapes and memories of decades spent growing up together with neighbors who were now sharing in the disaster.

“There are rows of us that went to school together,” said Young, gesturing to a vast stretch of scorched foundations.

Michael McCarthy, 68, a clerk in the City of Los Angeles, said his home was saved by a neighbor who risked his life by staying behind after everyone else had fled, using a hose to spray water on their roofs.

“I know this community will rebuild, everybody knows everybody here, everybody loves everybody,” said McCarthy, who is due to retire this year.

“Well, I got a new job now, and that’s putting all this back together and do what I can for the neighborhood.”

US seeks 15 years prison for Menendez

Prosecutors say ‘naked greed’ was motivation

Jonathan Stempel
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Robert Menendez, the disgraced former U.S. senator from New Jersey, should spend at least 15 years in prison following his corruption conviction, after he betrayed voters by putting his office “up for sale” in exchange for bribes, U.S. prosecutors said.

The recommendation was filed on Thursday night in Manhattan federal court, a week after Menendez’s lawyers pleaded for leniency, citing the 71-year-old’s age, decades of public service, charitable works, devotion to family, and financial and professional ruin.

Probation officers recommended a 12-year prison term, which Menendez’s lawyers described as an effective “death sentence.”

Menendez, a Democrat who spent 18 1/2 years in the Senate and chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was convicted last July on all 16 counts he faced, including acting as an agent of a foreign government.

Prosecutors said Menendez accepted gold, cash, a Mercedes-Benz and other rewards in exchange for political favors, including shepherding of military aid to Egypt and providing assistance to Qatar, as part of a bribery conspiracy.

In Thursday’s filing, prosecutors also recommended that two New Jersey businessmen convicted with Menendez, Wael Hana and Fred Daibes, should spend at least 10 years and nine years in



Attorneys for Bob Menendez said a long prison sentence for him would be “likely a life and death sentence for someone of Bob’s age and condition.”
NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

prison, respectively.

Motivated by “naked greed,” the defendants engaged in crimes that were “an extraordinary attempt, at the highest levels of the legislative branch, to corrupt the nation’s core sovereign powers over foreign relations and law enforcement,” prosecutors said.

The defendants have requested short prison terms, none more than two years, or no time behind bars. They are scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 29 in Manhattan federal court.

Menendez’s wife, Nadine Menendez, is trying to postpone her Feb. 5 trial on related charges, citing potential nega-

tive publicity from her husband’s sentencing.

In their sentencing recommendation, prosecutors said Menendez is the first senator convicted for abusing a Senate committee leadership position, and the first person convicted of serving as a foreign agent while being a public official.

Menendez was also accused of trying to disrupt criminal probes in New Jersey on behalf of Daibes and a one-time insurance broker, Jose Uribe. Uribe testified at trial for the government.

Prosecutors said Menendez committed crimes even after a Senate ethics

committee admonished him for receiving gifts from a wealthy donor, Salomon Melgen, without required approval and disclosures.

The relationship between Menendez and Melgen underlay a 2017 corruption case against the senator, which ended in a mistrial after jurors deadlocked.

“Menendez’s willingness to engage in the charged scheme immediately after receiving a formal admonition for such similar conduct speaks volumes about his character,” prosecutors said.

In addition, prosecutors said arguments that Menendez has been punished enough reflect a “deeply misplaced sense of entitlement.”

Robert Menendez has maintained his innocence and is expected to appeal his conviction.

The appeal may include an argument that jurors were improperly allowed during deliberations to review evidence that was not presented at trial.

Menendez’s lawyers requested a prison term “substantially” below the 21 to 27 months they say are recommended under federal sentencing guidelines. Probation officers estimated the guidelines recommendation at 24-1/2 to 30-1/2 years.

Hana and Daibes have requested sentences of no more than one year and two years, respectively.

Lawyers for Menendez and Daibes did not immediately respond on Friday to requests for comment.

Hana’s lawyer Lawrence Lustberg called a 10-year sentence for his client “inhumane and unjust.” Nadine Menendez’s lawyer Barry Coburn declined to comment.



An explosion of a drone after it hit an apartment building is seen in the sky during a Russian drone strike, amid Russia’s attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday. GLEB GARANICH/REUTERS

Sanctions

Continued from Page 1NN

were the “most significant sanctions yet on Russia’s energy sector, by far the largest source of revenue for (President Vladimir) Putin’s war.”

The U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions on Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas, which explore for, produce and sell oil as well as 183 vessels that have shipped Russian oil, many of which are in the so-called shadow fleet of aging tankers operated by non-Western companies.

The sanctions also include networks that trade the petroleum.

Many of those tankers have been used to ship oil to India and China as a price cap imposed by the Group of Seven countries in 2022 has shifted trade in Russian oil from Europe to Asia. Some tankers have shipped both Russian and Iranian oil.

The Treasury also rescinded a provision that had exempted the intermediation of energy payments from sanctions on Russian banks.

The sanctions should cost Russia billions of dollars per month if sufficiently enforced, another U.S. official told reporters in a call.

“There is not a step in the production and distribution chain that’s untouched and that gives us greater confidence that evasion is going to be even more costly for Russia,” the official said.

Gazprom Neft said the sanctions were unjustified and illegitimate and it will continue to operate.

The measures allow a wind-down period until March 12 for sanctioned entities to finish energy transactions.

US ‘no longer constrained’ by tight oil supply

Still, sources in Russian oil trade and Indian refining said the sanctions will cause severe disruption of Russian oil exports to its major buyers India and China.

Global oil prices jumped more than 3% ahead of the Treasury announcement, with Brent crude nearing \$80 a barrel, as a document mapping out the sanctions circulated among traders in Europe and Asia.

Geoffrey Pyatt, the U.S. assistant secretary for energy resources at the State Department, said there were new volumes of oil expected to come online this year from the U.S., Guyana, Canada and Brazil and possibly out of the Middle East will fill in for any lost Russian supply.

“We see ourselves as no longer constrained by tight supply in global markets the way we were when the price cap mechanism was unveiled,” Pyatt told Reuters.

The sanctions are part of a broader effort, as the Biden administration has furnished Ukraine with \$64 billion in military aid since the invasion, including \$500 million this week for air defense missiles and support equipment for fighter jets.

Friday’s move followed U.S. sanctions in November on banks including Gazprombank, Russia’s largest conduit to the global energy business, and earlier last year on dozens of tankers carrying Russian oil.

The Biden administration believes that November’s sanctions helped drive Russia’s rouble to its weakest level since the beginning of the invasion and pushed the Russian central bank to

raise its policy rate to a record level of over 20%.

“We expect our direct targeting of the energy sector will aggravate these pressures on the Russian economy that have already pushed up inflation to almost 10% and reinforce a bleak economic outlook for 2025 and beyond,” one of the officials said.

Reversal would involve Congress

One of the Biden officials said it was “entirely” up to the President-elect Trump, a Republican, who takes office on Jan. 20, when and on what terms he might lift sanctions imposed during the Biden era.

But to do so he would have to notify Congress and give it the ability to take a vote of disapproval, he said. Many Republican members of Congress had urged Biden to impose Friday’s sanctions.

“Trump’s people can’t just come in and quietly lift everything that Biden just did. Congress would have to be involved,” said Jeremy Paner, a partner at the law firm Hughes Hubbard & Reed.

The return of Trump has sparked hope of a diplomatic resolution to end Moscow’s invasion but also fears in Kyiv that a quick peace could come at a high price for Ukraine.

Advisers to Trump have floated proposals that would effectively cede large parts of Ukraine to Russia for the foreseeable future.

The Trump transition team did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the new sanctions.

The military aid and oil sanctions “provide the next administration a considerable boost to their and Ukraine’s leverage,” one of the officials said.

Tulsa

Continued from Page 1NN

There is testimony from a white witness who reported seeing officers search Black men reportedly looking for weapons “only to steal money from them and shoot them if they protested,” the report said.

Another witness recalled an officer bragging of personally killing four Black men, according to the report.

The Tulsa city mayor’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The massacre began after a Black man was alleged to have grabbed a white woman by her arm, according to an account.

Police arrested the man who was alleged to have assaulted the woman, according to the Justice Department report, which said that a local newspaper sensationalized the story, prompting a mob of white Tulsans to gather outside the courthouse and demand a lynching.

A confrontation broke out outside a courthouse, where Black men from Greenwood and a white mob gathered, following the arrest, according to the Justice Department report. Violence erupted after someone fired a shot, it added.

“Local police deputized hundreds of white residents, many of whom had been advocating for a lynching and had been drinking,” the report said.

The department said law enforcement officers helped organize these special deputies and other white Tulsans into the forces that ultimately resulted in the ravage of the Greenwood community.

The report also said city officials failed to fulfill promises to help Greenwood rebuild and “put up obstacles to residential reconstruction, instead imposing “harsh new fire codes that priced residents out of the area” after they deemed the area better suited for industrial use.

“The Tulsa Race Massacre stands out as a civil rights crime unique in its magnitude, barbarity, racist hostility and its utter annihilation of a thriving Black community,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division.



A recent report found that police participated in the 1921 race massacre in Tulsa, Okla.
LAWRENCE BRYANT/REUTERS FILE

SPORTS

EXTRA

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF



Ohio State's Jack Sawyer scoops up the ball after sacking Texas QB Quinn Ewers and forcing a fumble in the late stages of the Cotton Bowl on Friday in Arlington, Texas. Sawyer returned it 83 yards for a TD to seal the win. ALEX SLITZ/GETTY IMAGES

Sawyer's defensive TD seals Ohio State's semifinal win

Drew Davison
FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

ARLINGTON, Texas — Jack Sawyer remembers wearing an Ohio State jersey, playing catch with his dad in the backyard of their Ohio home that sits not too far from campus. He dreamed of playing for the Buckeyes one day, making plays to help them win a championship.

That dream became a reality on Friday as Sawyer etched his name into Buckeyes lore, returning a fumble 83 yards for a scoop-and-score touchdown, ending a potential game-tying drive by Texas and putting Ohio State one step away from a title with a 28-14 victory in a College Football Playoff semifinal.

“I hit about the 30-(yard line) and I look back like, ‘I hope I have some blockers.’ I’m running out of steam here,” Sawyer said. “But they were running with me side by side. That just speaks volumes of who this team is – we always have each other’s back. It was a special moment.

“I love Columbus, I love the state of Ohio, I love Ohio State football.”



Ohio State head coach Ryan Day and defensive end Jack Sawyer celebrate after winning the Cotton Bowl on Friday in Arlington, Texas. TIM HEITMAN/IMAGN IMAGES

No. 8 seed Ohio State (13-2) will face No. 7 seed Notre Dame (14-1) in the CFP national championship game on Jan. 20 in Atlanta. Ohio State, a 9½-point favorite, will be looking to win its first championship since 2014.

As proud of he was with his team’s performance in the Cotton Bowl, Ohio State coach Ryan Day made it clear: “It’s not finished. We’re not done yet.”

See COTTON BOWL, Page 4NS

GOLF PGA TOUR

Fishburn, McCarthy on top at Sony Open

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Patrick Fishburn and Denny McCarthy, two 30-something players each seeking his first PGA Tour win, share the lead at the midpoint of the Sony Open in Hawaii.

Fishburn produced a second consecutive 5-under 65 at Waialae Country Club on Friday. McCarthy carded a 66, and he is also at 10-under 130 for the tournament.

Eric Cole (3 under in second round), Paul Peterson (3 under) and Japan’s Kensei Hirata (7 under) are tied for third place at 9 under.

Lee Hodges (6 under), Alex Smalley (6 under), Zach Johnson (4 under), J.J. Spaun (4 under) and Austria’s Sepp Straka (4 under) share sixth place at 8 under.

Fishburn started his bogey-free round with a hot streak on the back nine, as he recorded three consecutive birdies from No. 12 to No. 14. After the turn, he added birdies at No. 5 and No. 9.

The 32-year-old Utah native said the key to his strong two rounds was “probably just keeping the ball in the fairway. I’ve hit a lot of fairways and feel really comfortable with the putter. First round I made a few long ones and today felt like everything was kind of going where I wanted it to on the greens.

“Just a matter of judging the wind and the break. Feel like I’m rolling the ball really well, so excited for the next two days.”

See SONY OPEN, Page 5NS



Denny McCarthy lines up his putt on the ninth hole during the second round of the Sony Open on Friday. KYLE TERADA/IMAGN IMAGES

NFL PLAYOFFS

Wild-card set for kickoff

- As they prepare to face the Los Angeles Chargers in the AFC wild-card round on Saturday, the fourth-seeded Houston Texans realize the urgency ramps up in January and beyond. That especially rings true against a fifth-seeded Chargers team that boasts the NFL’s top-ranked scoring defense.
 - Lamar Jackson has won the same number of playoff games as NFL MVP trophies: two. The dearth of postseason victories has been an issue and the Ravens’ star quarterback looks to change the narrative when third-seeded Baltimore hosts the sixth-seeded Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC wild-card round on Saturday night.
- GAME PREVIEWS, 3NS
- Predictions for the wild-card matchups.
- STORY, 2NS



Los Angeles Chargers linebacker Joey Bosa leads the NFL's top-ranked scoring defense into a wild-card matchup against the Houston Texans on Saturday. ROBERT HANASHIRO/IMAGN IMAGES



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson owns a 2-4 record in the playoffs, having thrown six interceptions while losing three fumbles in the postseason. ANDREW DIEB/IMAGN IMAGES

NFL

Predictions for wild-card matchups

Tyler Dragon
USA TODAY

The NFL playoffs kick off with three days of NFL action. All 14 playoff teams are playing for a chance to hoist the Lombardi Trophy at Super Bowl 59 at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans.

The Kansas City Chiefs are aiming to become the first team in NFL history to win three consecutive Super Bowls. Kansas City and the Detroit Lions both earned the top seeds in their respective conferences.

Will the Baltimore Ravens, Buffalo Bills or another AFC team knock off Kansas City en route to New Orleans? Can the Lions advance to the Super Bowl for the first time in franchise history? Or will a lower seed emerge from each conference?

The answer to those questions will start to formalize as soon as Saturday. Here are my NFL wild-card round predictions:

AFC

● **7. Denver Broncos (10-7) vs. 2. Buffalo Bills (13-4)**

The Bills won the AFC East for the fifth straight season. Led by MVP candidate Josh Allen, the Bills are the first team in NFL history with at least 30 touchdown passes (30) and 30 rushing touchdowns (32) in a season. The Broncos clinched their first playoff berth since 2015.

The Broncos are ahead of schedule in their rebuild. It’s an accomplishment for Denver to be in the postseason. On the other side, the Bills are legitimate Super Bowl contenders. It’s going to be a tough game for a young, upstart Broncos club in Buffalo. Denver’s stingy defense will make some plays, but the Bills have the more talented roster.

Buffalo hasn’t lost a game at home this season.

Score prediction: Bills win 30-17

● **6. Pittsburgh Steelers (10-7) vs. 3. Baltimore Ravens (12-5)**

It’s always a physical game when these two AFC North rivals meet. Expect the physicality to ratchet up in a win-or-go-home situation.



Bills quarterback Josh Allen rolls out to pass against the Jets on Dec. 29 at Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y. GREGORY FISHER/IMAGN IMAGES

Lamar Jackson became the first player in NFL history to pass for 4,000-plus yards and run for 900-plus yards in a single season. Additionally, he’s the first player in league history with at least 40 touchdown passes and fewer than five interceptions in a season.

He was the best player on the gridiron this season. Now he must translate his performance to the postseason. At some point in Jackson’s career, fair or unfair, he’s going to be judged on his success in the playoffs as the Ravens starting QB.

The Steelers have lost four consecutive games and have no momentum entering the playoffs. Jackson, Derrick Henry and the Ravens’ high-powered offense will overwhelm a reeling Steelers squad.

Score prediction: Ravens 28-17

● **5. Los Angeles Chargers (11-6) vs. 4. Houston Texans (10-7)**

The Texans won the AFC South for the second year in a row, but they’ve lost two of their last three games.

Houston did end the regular season with a win, although, they beat up on the lowly Tennessee Titans.

The Chargers went from five wins in 2023 to the AFC’s No. 5 seed in Jim Harbaugh first year. Justin Herbert doesn’t have a playoff win on his resume. He has a prime opportunity to get a postseason victory in H-Town.

Quentin Johnston is coming off a career game of 13 catches for 186 yards. The Chargers need him to be a reliable receiver if they want to make noise in the postseason. Los Angeles has the NFL’s top scoring defense.

Score prediction: Chargers 23-20

NFC

● **7. Green Bay Packers (11-6) vs. 2. Philadelphia Eagles (14-3)**

The Eagles have a proven formula — they have a potent rushing attack and the No. 1 total defense in the NFL. They are the most complete team in the NFC.

These two teams met Week 1 in Brazil. Saquon Barkley rushed for 109 yards and two touchdowns in their first meeting. The Eagles rested their 2,000-yard running back in the regular-season finale in preparation for a Super Bowl

run. Expect the Eagles to ride their star ball carrier and MVP candidate this postseason.

Jordan Love and the Packers will keep this wild-card game competitive, but the Eagles should fly high at home.

Score prediction: Eagles 28-24

● **6. Washington Commanders (12-5) vs. 3. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (10-7)**

The Bucs, who won the NFC South for the fourth straight season, host a Commanders team that’s in the playoffs for the first time since 2020.

Mike Evans reached 1,000 receiving yards for the 11th straight year. He could battle his former Saints nemesis and now Commanders CB Marshon Lattimore if the corner returns from a hamstring injury. Evans should have an advantage versus the Commanders’ secondary, plus Tampa Bay will try to run the football with emerging RB Bucky Irving.

Tampa Bay defeated Washington, 37-20, in Week 1, but that was Jayden Daniels’ first career NFL game. The rookie QB has since blossomed into the presumptive NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Daniels has the capability to be the most impactful player on the field in Tampa Bay.

Score prediction: Commanders 27-24

● **5. Minnesota Vikings (14-3) vs. 4. Los Angeles Rams (10-7)**

The Rams’ offensive scheme is designed to give Puka Nacua and Kyren Williams the football in advantageous positions.

Nacua compiled 79 catches for 990 receiving yards in 11 games. While Williams rushed for 1,299 yards and 14 touchdowns in 16 games.

The two combined for 227 yards from scrimmage and one touchdown when Los Angeles beat Minnesota in Week 8.

The Vikings are coming off a disappointing Week 18 loss that snapped their nine-game winning streak. Justin Jefferson was held to only three catches for 54 yards in the regular-season finale. Jefferson and the Vikings bounce back and get revenge Monday night in LA.

Score prediction: Vikings 27-23

NOTEBOOK

Eagles QB Hurts cleared to start vs. Pack

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts has cleared concussion protocol and will start the NFC wild-card playoff matchup against the visiting Green Bay Packers on Sunday, coach Nick Sirianni said Friday.

Hurts has been sidelined since suffering the head injury on Dec. 22 against the Washington Commanders. He returned to practice on Wednesday in a limited fashion before taking on a full workload the following day.

“He has made it through the protocol,” Sirianni said. “He’s had a good week of practice. Really good week.”

A.J. Brown returned to the practice field on Friday however fellow wide receiver DeVonta Smith did not participate in the session. Multiple reports had Smith sitting out due to a back tightness, however NFL Network reported Smith is expected to be able to play on Sunday.

Brown was limited in practice on Wednesday before sitting out the following day due to a knee injury.

Packers QB Love (elbow) set to play vs. Eagles

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love’s right elbow is improving and he didn’t receive an injury status for Sunday’s NFC wild-card game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Love practiced in full Friday for the second straight day and his throwing arm continues to progress. He injured it during last weekend’s regular-season finale against the Chicago Bears.

“He did well,” Packers coach Matt LaFleur said after practice. “Today was a good day.”

Love passed for 3,389 yards and 25 touchdowns against 11 interceptions in 15 games this season.

Packers backup quarterback Malik Willis injured in his right (throwing) thumb against the Bears. He was a full practice participant on Friday for the second straight day and is also cleared for the game.



Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts (1) passes the ball against the Pittsburgh Steelers during a Dec. 15 game in Philadelphia. BILL STREICHER/IMAGN IMAGES

Green Bay will be without receiver Christian Watson, who sustained an ACL tear in his right knee against the Bears. Safety Zayne Anderson (concussion) also was ruled out.

Ravens QB Jackson leads NFL All-Pro team selections

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson received 30 first-place votes to lead the 2024 NFL All-Pro Team, the Associated Press announced Friday.

Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen trailed Jackson with 18 first-place votes, with Cincinnati Bengals QB Joe Burrow nabbing two, as chosen by a national panel of 50 media voters.

This is Jackson’s third All-Pro nod, having earned the honors in 2019 and 2023, both years in which he was also named NFL MVP. The only quarterbacks with more All-Pro nominations in the Super Bowl era are Peyton Manning (7) and Aaron Rodgers (4).

Wide receivers Ja’Marr Chase of the Bengals and Justin Jefferson of the

Minnesota Vikings both received unanimous first-place votes.

“Wow, that’s crazy. That’s respect right there. That’s love,” Jefferson said of the unanimous vote.

Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley earned 48 out of 50 first-place votes thanks to a season that saw him run for a franchise-record 2,005 yards in 16 games in his first season with the Eagles.

The two first-place votes that didn’t go to Barkley went to Ravens running back Derrick Henry.

The Denver Broncos’ Patrick Surtain II similarly dominated at his position, earning 49 first-place votes at cornerback.

“For real? That’s a huge honor,” Surtain said of the nomination. “That’s one of the accolades I definitely had goals for.”

The Ravens, Eagles and the Detroit Lions tied for the most nominations with six per team.

Las Vegas Raiders rookie tight end Brock Bowers is one of 14 players who were nominated for the first time,

according to NFL.com.

Watson ruptures Achilles again, could miss all of 2025

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson’s availability for the 2025 season is in jeopardy after additional tests revealed that he ruptured his Achilles tendon.

Watson met with Dr. Robert Anderson before undergoing the surgery on Thursday. Watson initially tore his right Achilles tendon on Oct. 20.

“(On Thursday), Deshaun Watson underwent a second surgery to repair his right Achilles tendon rupture. Watson initially tore the tendon during the Browns’ Week 7 game against the Cincinnati Bengals on Oct. 20. His first surgery was performed on Oct. 25,” the Browns wrote in a statement. “Earlier this week, when Watson reported to CrossCountry Mortgage Campus for his exit physical as part of the Browns’ season-ending process, he complained of discomfort after rolling his ankle in Miami. MRI results demonstrated a re-rupture to his Achilles tendon.

“... Watson’s recovery time and return to play status is uncertain, and he will likely miss significant time during the 2025 season.”

Buccaneers S Winfield Jr. cleared to play after four-game absence

Two starters in the secondary received the green light to play for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday night.

Safety Antoine Winfield Jr. is set to return to the lineup for the first time after sitting out four consecutive games recovering from a knee injury and cornerback Jamel Dean plans to play after missing Week 18 with a knee injury, according to head coach Todd Bowles on Friday.

Winfield practiced without limitation all week. He had 60 tackles, two sacks and returned a fumble for a touchdown in the nine games he played this season.

NFL

CHARGERS AT TEXANS 4:30 P.M. ET, CBS

Stroud, Texans face tough test vs. Chargers' defense

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Three wins in the final six regular-season games led the Houston Texans to a home playoff game nonetheless.

As they prepare to face the Los Angeles Chargers in the AFC wild-card round on Saturday, the fourth-seeded Texans realize the urgency ramps up in January and beyond.

That especially rings true against a fifth-seeded Chargers team that boasts the NFL's top-ranked scoring defense.

"If you get hot as an offense, especially around this time of year, that's a really good thing for your team and your organization," Texans offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik said.

Assured of their second consecutive AFC South crown, the Texans opted to rest several key contributors in the regular-season finale on the heels of a 31-2 loss to the Baltimore Ravens on Christmas Day.

Still, Houston (10-7) finished with a needed spark, ending a two-game skid with a 23-14 road victory against the Tennessee Titans, who secured the top pick in this year's NFL draft.

Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud connected on all six passes for 50 yards in his lone series on Sunday, punctuating the cameo with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Nico Collins. Thrust into an increased role after a midseason injury to Stefon Diggs, Collins led Houston in receptions (68), receiving yards (1,006) and receiving touchdowns (seven) this season.

For Houston to "get hot," the passing game and a ground attack led by Joe Mixon (1,016 rushing yards, 11 touchdowns) must keep the Chargers off balance.

That's no easy task against a Los Angeles front seven led by veterans Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack.

"Obviously, Bosa and Khalil have been good for a very long time," Slowik said. "Played a lot of football and it shows on tape. Constant pressure, constant impact in the run game and what they do to edges."

Los Angeles (11-6) is in the playoffs in its first season under coach Jim Harbaugh, who returned to the NFL after



Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud looks to pass in the first half against the Tennessee Titans on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn. STEVE ROBERTS/IMAGN IMAGES

spending nine years at the helm of his alma mater, Michigan.

In Week 18, the Chargers seized an opportunity to move up to the AFC's fifth seed, handling the host Las Vegas Raiders 34-20 behind 346 passing yards and two touchdowns from Justin Herbert.

The Pittsburgh Steelers' loss to the Cincinnati Bengals the night before created an opening for the Chargers, who stretched their winning streak to three games.

Herbert quickly developed a rapport with rookie wide receiver Ladd McConkey this season, whose 82 catches and 1,149 yards led the team. McConkey grabbed seven touchdown receptions, one behind teammate Quentin Johnston's total.

The Texans allowed 201 passing yards per game during the regular season, the sixth-lowest figure in the league, while their 29 takeaways were fifth most in the NFL.

Led by defensive linemen Danielle Hunter (12 sacks) and Will Anderson Jr. (11), Houston set a franchise mark with 49 sacks, tied for fourth most in the league.

Los Angeles may include a new wrinkle in its attack after signing veteran running back Ezekiel Elliott to the practice squad this week. Chargers rushing leaders J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards both battled injuries down the stretch.

"We've done a great job of marrying the run and the pass game and making things look similar," Herbert said. "Having the threat of being able to run the

ball out of a certain set and throw the ball out of the same set, it's tough on defenses."

That kind of guesswork could pressure Houston, which struggled with its red-zone defense (ranked 27th).

Saturday marks the first postseason meeting between the Texans and Chargers.

Houston is 1-2 against AFC West foes in the playoffs, having beaten the then-Oakland Raiders and having lost twice to the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Chargers are 3-1 against the AFC South in postseason play, including a defeat in their most recent playoff game. Visiting the Jacksonville Jaguars in a wild-card game after the 2022 season, Los Angeles squandered a 27-7 halftime lead en route to a 31-30 loss.

STEELERS AT RAVENS 8 P.M. ET, PRIME VIDEO

Jackson looks to outrun playoff demons vs. Steelers

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Lamar Jackson has won the same number of playoff games as NFL MVP trophies: two.

The dearth of postseason victories have been an issue and the Ravens star quarterback looks to change the narrative when third-seeded Baltimore hosts the sixth-seeded Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC wild-card round on Saturday night.

Jackson owns a 2-4 record in the playoffs, having thrown six interceptions while fumbling six times (losing three) in the postseason. He has thrown for six touchdowns and rushed for three in his playoff career.

In other words, production needs to increase and miscues need to decrease.

And the 28-year-old needs to be more relaxed.

"I'm just too excited — that's all. Too antsy, that's all," Jackson said of his playoff troubles. "I'm seeing things before it happens like, 'Oh, I have to calm myself down.' But just being more experienced, I've found a way to balance it out."

One person who could come to the rescue is star running back Derrick Henry.

In his first season with the Ravens, Henry rushed for 1,921 yards, second in the NFL, and 16 touchdowns, tied for first. He has played in seven postseason games, and he helped Tennessee reach the AFC Championship Game in the 2019 season before the Titans lost to the Kansas City Chiefs.

Henry is aware of the team's reputation for coming up short in the playoffs. Just last season, the Ravens were the top seed but eventually lost at home to the Chiefs in the AFC title game.

"We've got to be different this time," Henry said. "I think you all know that and we all feel that. We all know what we're capable of. Let's go get it."

This will be the fifth postseason meeting between the teams. Pittsburgh won three of the previous four, but the Ravens prevailed in the most recent playoff matchup, 30-17 in the wild-card round on Jan. 3, 2015.



Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) rushes against Cleveland Browns safety Juan Thornhill (1) on Jan. 4 in Baltimore.

MITCH STRINGER/IMAGN IMAGES

This season, the Ravens (12-5) and Steelers (10-7) split their two regular-season meetings, with each team winning at home.

The Steelers captured the first game 18-16 behind six field goals from Chris Boswell on Nov. 17. In the rematch on Dec. 21, Jackson threw three touchdown passes and Henry rushed for 162 yards in Baltimore's 34-17 triumph.

Pittsburgh enters the Saturday clash on a four-game losing streak. The Steelers missed multiple chances to clinch the AFC North before eventually being overtaken by Baltimore, which won its last four contests.

"For us, it's not about being in the tournament. It's not about pouting over the last month," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "It's about this week for us, we're playing someone that we're highly familiar with. They're also highly

familiar with us. ... And so there's a lot of work ahead of us in preparation for performance."

Pittsburgh has been outscored 109-57 during the slide and hasn't scored more than 17 points in any of the setbacks.

The Steelers lost 19-17 to the visiting Cincinnati Bengals last week, and the refrain from Pittsburgh players is consistent: Turn the page.

"Everybody doesn't get a chance to play in the playoffs, everybody doesn't get a chance to prolong their season week by week," Pittsburgh cornerback Donte Jackson said. "So you have to be turned up. You've got to flush everything that happened, and you got to just detail in and hone in on this. The guys don't worry about the last month."

The Steelers will be counting on veteran quarterback Russell Wilson to be

steady in his approach. The 36-year-old won a Super Bowl title with the Seattle Seahawks in the 2013 season and has a 9-7 record in the postseason.

Ravens receiver Zay Flowers (knee) missed his second straight day of practice on Wednesday and remains unlikely to play Saturday. Flowers was injured during the regular-season finale against the Cleveland Browns.

Baltimore returner Deonte Harty (knee) missed practice on Wednesday after being a full participant the day before, when the team activated his 21-day window to return. Harty was injured in Week 6 and missed the rest of the regular season.

Pittsburgh star defensive tackle Cameron Heyward (illness) sat out his second straight practice on Wednesday. Boswell (illness) and tight end MyCole Pruitt (knee) also sat out.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Penn State laments another chance to break through

Paul Myerberg
USA TODAY

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — The hype that traveled with James Franklin to Penn State when he was hired a decade ago could be described in four words: He won at Vanderbilt.

That raised expectations around the Nittany Lions to meteoric heights, seemingly placing the program on a collision course for Big Ten and national championships. The Nittany Lions have won a single conference crown; the national championship continues to prove elusive.

Missed chances, missed opportunities, misfires in top-five matchups — deservedly or not, that’s been the Nittany Lions’ defining trait under Franklin. That makes losing 27-24 to Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff semifinals at the Orange Bowl feel painfully familiar: Penn State is close, but the program’s glass ceiling remains unbroken.

“Everything we did together,” said junior linebacker Kobe King. “All the success, we had together. All the failures, we learn from. But it’s heartbreaking. It’s definitely something for the guys to look forward to next year, and some guys to put on their shoulders as a chip to learn from and to overcome.”

This loss breathes more life into the image of the Nittany Lions as their own worst enemy.

Penn State led 10-0 late in the second quarter and had a chance to keep Notre Dame off the board. But the defense failed to fall on a fumble, allowing the Irish to get on the board with a field goal. After dominating the first half, the running game essentially disappeared in the second. The Nittany Lions led 24-17 with just under eight minutes to play but allowed the Irish to tie the game on a breakdown in the secondary.

But no play will define the loss — and the team’s entire season — more than a crucial, game-breaking interception from quarterback Drew Allar with 33 seconds remaining.

“We just know we’ve got his back,” said All-America tight end Tyler Warren. “He knows that, too. That’s how we go about it, man.”



Penn State quarterback Drew Allar threw a costly interception in the final 33 seconds of the Orange Bowl on Thursday. SAM NAVARRO/IMAGN IMAGES

There’s no way to second-guess the decision to push the tempo in an effort to win the game in regulation, especially as overtime games have become an even bigger crapshoot with the rule change that forces each team to alternate two-point conversions beginning in the third extra frame.

“We’ve embraced playing to win,” said offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki. “We get a good run to start that drive and hurry up and go tempo and end up turning it over, which ended up being costly. That’s what you’ve got to do. You play to win.”

But after running back Nick Singleton’s 13-yard run moved Penn State to the 28-yard line, Allar dropped back to pass and rolled to his left to buy time. He then committed one of the cardinal sins of quarterbacking: He threw across his body, aimed toward junior wide receiver Omari Evans. The attempt was intercepted by Notre Dame defensive back Christian Gray.

Allar could’ve thrown the ball into the first row, or even continued to scramble his way across the sideline. Either decision might have cost Penn State momentum. At worst, though, the safer play would have left the Nittany Lions in position to force overtime.

“I was going through my progressions,” Allar said. “Got to the backside

and honestly, I was just trying to go to Omari’s feet. I should have just thrown it away when I thought the first two progressions aren’t open just because of the situation we were in.”

After three offensive snaps moved the Irish to the 25-yard line, quarterback Riley Leonard moved the ball toward the right hashmark to set up kicker Mitch Jeter’s 41-yard field goal with 10 seconds to play.

“He’s hurting right now, right? He should be hurting. We’re all hurting,” Franklin said of Allar. “This ain’t easy, to get in here after a game and have a conversation after you’ve just poured your guts out on the field. He’ll handle it great.

“He’ll be hurting tonight and tomorrow. He’ll hurt a little bit less the next day and so on and so forth. But he’s a committed guy who’s going to do it the right way. He’ll learn from this and be better for it, and so will we.”

Said Kotelnicki, “That’s tough, right? Because he’s going to put that on himself, and he shouldn’t have to.

“I simply say to him, ‘It ain’t you. It’s not on you to take that on your shoulders and feel that blame for that.’ Because we will win and we will lose as a group, as a football team. It’s never one play. Everyone is going to point the finger at that one. But I say, ‘I love you.

Because I do.”

After taking a step forward in the regular season as a second-year starter, Allar struggled during the playoff, taking a back seat to the Nittany Lions’ running game in wins against Indiana and Boise State and again against the Irish.

He went 13 of 22 for 127 yards against the Hoosiers, tying his season low with 5.8 yards per attempt, and then completed 13 of 25 throws for 171 yards against the Broncos, though he did have three touchdowns without an interception. Allar was 12 of 23 for 135 yards against the Irish and was very ineffective downfield, completing just six of the 14 attempts that traveled more than five yards beyond the line of scrimmage.

Overall, the Nittany Lions failed to complete a single pass to their wide receivers.

“We tried a couple early on in the game but weren’t able to convert them,” Franklin said. “Yeah, that’s a storyline of the game. That’s one of the storylines, I don’t think there’s any doubt about it. We had some throws and some contested balls that we didn’t come down with.”

The interception threatens to define Allar’s college career — it’s a moment that will linger in program history for the wrong reasons, and only grow painfully in magnitude should the Irish beat Ohio State or Texas in the championship game.

He’s already committed to coming back in 2025, saying in a social-media post last month that “there’s still more work to do, which is why I look forward to making more memories with my teammates this year and beyond.”

First, Allar will have to move past this moment. How he does so, or whether he does so at all, will play a huge role in deciding whether Penn State is poised to finally break through in 2025.

“Drew is a passionate guy,” Franklin said. “He invests so much into his development and also to his teammates, to Penn State. He’ll handle this like he handles everything else, with a first-class approach and with an investment level that’s as good as anybody in the country. His growth from a year-one starter to a year-two starter was significant. He has a chance to take another step next year.”



Ohio State’s Will Howard (18) and Jack Sawyer celebrate after winning the Cotton Bowl against Texas on Friday in Arlington, Texas. RON JENKINS/GETTY IMAGES

Cotton Bowl

Continued from Page 1

Ohio State’s Quinshon Judkins rushed for two touchdowns and Will Howard threw for one, but Sawyer emerged as the star of the night.

Texas, trailing 21-14 with just over four minutes left in the game, had a first-and-goal from the 1. The Longhorns (13-3) went backward over the first three plays, losing 7 yards on a sweep to Quintrevion Wisner on second down, and faced a fourth-and-goal from the 8.

Sawyer capped the defensive stand by coming off the edge and ripping the ball loose from quarterback Quinn Ewers. He picked it up at the Ohio State 17 and then raced down the sideline for the game-sealing touchdown.

“I felt him. I started drifting away,” Ewers said. “I thought I was going to get the ball out before he got there.

“Obviously, it’s not like I tried to give them the game. But I saw Jack running with the ball down the sideline and, you know, it sucks. But he’s a great player, great individual, great person.”

Ewers finished 23 of 39 for 283 yards with two TDs and one interception for the fifth-seeded Longhorns. Both touchdown passes went to Jaydon Blue on wheel routes, one in each half. Their

second connection, a 26-yard play late in the third quarter, tied the game at 14-14. But the Longhorns never scored again.

Ohio State 28, Texas 14

Ohio State	7	7	0	14	—	28
Texas	0	7	7	0	—	14

First Quarter

OhioSt—Quinshon Judkins 9 yd run (Jayden Fielding kick), 7:24.

Second Quarter

Tex—Jaydon Blue 18 yd pass from Quinn Ewers (Will Stone kick), 0:29.

OhioSt—TreVeyon Henderson 75 yd pass from Will Howard (Jayden Fielding kick), 0:13.

Third Quarter

Tex—Jaydon Blue 26 yd pass from Quinn Ewers (Will Stone kick), 3:12.

Fourth Quarter

OhioSt—Quinshon Judkins 1 yd run (Jayden Fielding kick), 7:02.

OhioSt—Jack Sawyer 83 yd opp fumble return (Jayden Fielding kick), 2:13.

	OhioSt	Texas
First downs	19	20
Total Net Yards	370	341
Rushes-yards	24-81	29-58
Passing	272	256
Punt Returns	1-(minus 1)	2-15
Kickoff Returns	0-0	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	1-7	1-3
Comp-Att-Int	24-33-1	23-39-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-17	4-27
Punts	6-41.8	6-43.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-1
Penalties-Yards	9-75	5-54
Time of Possession	31:39	28:21

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Ohio State, Henderson 6-42, Judkins 9-36, Howard 7-4, Egbuka 1-0. Texas, Wisner 17-46, Blue 4-16, Manning 1-8, Wingo 1-6, Gibson 1-0, Ewers 5-(minus 18).

PASSING—Ohio State, Howard 24-33-1-289. Texas, Ewers 23-39-1-283.

RECEIVING—Ohio State, Tate 7-87, Egbuka 5-51, Scott Jr. 5-30, Judkins 3-22, Kacmarek 2-21, Henderson 1-75, Smith 1-3. Texas, Wisner 6-42, Blue 5-59, Moore Jr. 4-31, Golden 2-51, Helm 2-42, Bolden 1-24, Wingo 1-22, Bond 1-8, Davis 1-4.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—None.

NOTEBOOK

Former Georgia QB Beck commits to play at Miami

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Former Georgia quarterback Carson Beck spent roughly 24 hours in the transfer portal before committing to play for the Miami Hurricanes in 2025, according to multiple reports.

Beck, who is recovering from elbow surgery, originally announced his intention to enter the 2025 NFL draft. However, he did not sign representation and 12 days later decided to play another season of college football, officially entering the transfer portal on Thursday with a do not contact tag.

Reports quickly surfaced that Miami was among the leading candidates to sign Beck, who will follow in the footsteps of Cam Ward. Ward withdrew from last year’s draft after not being projected as a first-round pick. He committed to Miami, where he threw for 4,313 yards and 39 touchdowns this past season, and is now favored to be the No. 1 overall pick in April.

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Beck suffered a season-ending injury in the Bulldogs’ win over Texas in last month’s SEC Championship. He missed Georgia’s loss to Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff quarterfinals.

A two-year starter, Beck passed for 7,912 yards with 58 touchdowns and 20 interceptions for the Bulldogs. He spent five seasons in Athens and has one year of eligibility remaining.

Beck, 22, had surgery on his right elbow Dec. 23 and will not be able to throw until March, but is expected to be fully cleared for fall camp in August.

Report: Syracuse QB McCord to declare for NFL draft

Syracuse quarterback Kyle McCord will declare for the NFL draft after leading the nation with 4,779 yards, ESPN reported Friday.

A senior this past season, McCord broke DeShaun Watson’s ACC record for passing yards in a season. The former Ohio State starter played just one

Former Georgia quarterback Carson Beck reportedly will transfer to Miami. JOSHUA L. JONES/USA TODAY NETWORK

season with the Orange.

McCord had been in search of an NCAA eligibility waiver for one more season after he was limited to five games as a freshman for Ohio State in 2021 but has now dropped that pursuit.

While leading Syracuse to a 10-3 record and a victory in the Holiday Bowl over Washington State, McCord was fourth in the nation with 35 passing touchdowns.

Alabama LB Okoronkwo commits to South Carolina

After choosing Alabama over South Carolina in July 2023, linebacker Justin Okoronkwo committed to the Gamecocks on Friday.

Okoronkwo entered the transfer portal after playing in Alabama’s 19-13 loss to Michigan in the ReliaQuest Bowl on New Year’s Eve.

The German native committed to the Crimson Tide in July 2023, bypassing offers from South Carolina, Michigan, Penn State and Nebraska, among others.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

All-American final on tap in Adelaide

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

No. 1 seed Jessica Pegula and Madison Keys will battle for the title Saturday at Australia's Adelaide International, the fifth All-American WTA Tour final of this decade.

Pegula defeated Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva 7-6 (4), 6-3 in Friday's semifinals while Keys was leading 5-7, 7-5, 3-0 when Russia's Liudmila Samsonova retired with an abdominal injury. Pegula and Keys split two previous meetings, with the latter winning the most recent clash in the 2023 U.S. Open fourth round.

Pegula won 10 of her 11 service games against Putintseva and hasn't lost a set this week. Keys collected 12 aces and saved three of five break points against Samsonova.

Hobart International

No. 2 seed Elise Mertens of Belgium will try to win the Australian tournament for a third time in Saturday's final against unseeded American McCartney Kessler.

Mertens dispatched 18-year-old wild card Maya Joint of Australia 6-2, 6-3 in 79 minutes in the semifinals. Despite seven double faults, Mertens only had her serve broken once.

Kessler rallied from a 4-2 deficit in the third set to beat No. 6 seed Elina Avanesyan of Armenia 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. It is the second tour-level final for Kessler, who claimed her maiden title in Cleveland last August.

Men
Adelaide International

No. 2 seed Sebastian Korda and No. 5 Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada will meet in Saturday's final in Australia.

Korda defeated Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3, 7-6 (4) and Auger-Aliassime upended top-seeded Tommy Paul 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4 in the semifinals. Auger-Aliassime has won two of three previous matches against Korda.

While Korda did not face a break point in his 79-minute triumph, Auger-Aliassime saved eight of 12 — three in



Madison Keys plays a forehand in her semifinal match against Liudmila Samsonova at the Adelaide International on Friday in Australia. Keys will face fellow American Jessica Pegula in Saturday's final. MARK BRAKE/GETTY IMAGES

the deciding set — during a match that lasted 2 hours and 45 minutes. Paul saved three match points in the final game before succumbing.

ASB Classic

At age 38, unseeded Frenchman Gael Monfils made history by becoming the

second-oldest player to reach an ATP Tour Final since 1990. Croatia's Ivo Karlovic was 39 when he reached the final at Pune (India) in 2019

Monfils held off 19-year-old Nishesh Basavareddy 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the semifinals in Auckland, New Zealand, and will meet Belgian qualifier Zizou Bergs in Saturday's title match. Monfils tallied

seven aces and saved all five break points against the unseeded American.

Bergs outlasted No. 7 seed Nuno Borges of Portugal for a 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 victory in 2 hours, 16 minutes. Bergs struck six aces and converted six of 13 break chances. The players exchanged five service breaks in the last seven games of the match.



Patrick Fishburn hits his fairway shot on the ninth hole during the second round of the Sony Open at Waialae Country Club on Friday. KYLE TERADA/IMAGN IMAGES

Sony Open

Continued from Page 1

Fishburn is competing in his 28th career PGA Tour event, and he has never finished higher than third place.

He said of his strategy for the weekend, "Just to continue what I've been doing. ... Just kind of take what the course gives me and be aggressive when I can, but try to continue to have good course management and hopefully roll a few in."

McCarthy, a 31-year-old Maryland native, is in his 191st start on Tour. He has registered two runner-up results,

at the 2023 Memorial and the 2024 Valero Texas Open.

On Friday, he started birdie-bogey-bogey, then was bogey-free the rest of the way, adding five more birdies.

"I played really well," McCarthy said. "I played better than yesterday, I think, tee to green. Hit way more fairways today. Missed a lot of short putts, but I guess made up for it. Made a couple longer bonus putts."

Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, coming off a record-breaking victory at The Sentry last week in Kapalua, Hawaii, is tied for 42nd place at 4 under after a 1-under 69 on Friday. Matsuyama captured the Sony Open championship three years ago.

MLB NOTEBOOK

Jays, Guerrero Jr. agree on 1-year, \$28.5M deal

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

One year after earning a record salary through arbitration, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the Toronto Blue Jays avoided another boardroom faceoff by agreeing to a one-year, \$28.5 million deal on Thursday.

The pact is the third largest ever landed by an arbitration-eligible player, trailing only the \$31 million that Juan Soto got from the New York Yankees last year and the \$30 million that Shohei Ohtani received from the Los Angeles Angels in 2023.

Guerrero, 25, made \$19.9 million in 2024 after the arbitration panel went with that figure over the \$18.05 million that the Blue Jays had offered.

Toronto got its money's worth, as Guerrero turned in a fourth straight All-Star season, captured his second Silver Slugger Award and finished sixth in American League MVP voting. The first baseman hit .323 with a .396 on-base percentage, a .544 slugging percentage, 30 homers and 103 RBIs in 159 games.

Eight Astros avoid arbitration; Valdez lands reported \$18M

The Houston Astros came to terms on one-year contracts for all eight of their arbitration-eligible players on Thursday, including star left-handed pitcher Framber Valdez.

The Astros did not disclose financial terms, but according to multiple media reports, Valdez will make \$18 million in 2025.

The other seven Houston players who avoided arbitration were right-hander Bryan Abreu and Luis Garcia, infielder/outfielder Mauricio Dubon, outfielder Chas McCormick and Jake Meyers, infielder Isaac Paredes and shortstop Jeremy Pena.

Thursday was the deadline for unsigned arbitration-eligible players and teams to exchange figures.

Valdez, 31, is a two-time All-Star who has taken over in recent years as Houston's staff ace. He threw a no-hitter with just one walk against the



The Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr. reacts after hitting a double against the Boston Red Sox on Sept. 25 in Toronto. DAN HAMILTON/IMAGN IMAGES

Cleveland Guardians in 2023, and in August 2024 he came one out away from no-hitting the Texas Rangers.

Valdez went 15-7 with a 2.91 ERA across 28 starts in 2024, fanning 169 and walking 55 in 176⅓ innings. In seven major league seasons, all with Houston, he is 68-41 with a 3.30 ERA in 157 games (135 starts). He received votes for both the American League Cy Young Award and MVP in 2024.

The Astros acquired Paredes, 25, from the Cubs last month in the trade that sent outfielder Kyle Tucker to Chicago. Paredes is a career .232 hitter with 72 home runs and 234 RBIs over 464 games with the Detroit Tigers (2020-21), Tampa Bay Rays (2022-24) and Cubs (2024).

Pirates sign LHP Ferguson to 1-year contract

The Pittsburgh Pirates announced the signing of left-hander Caleb Ferguson to a one-year contract on Friday.

The Pirates did not disclose the financial terms, but multiple media outlets reported it was a \$3 million deal.

Ferguson, 28, was dealt from the New York Yankees to the Houston Astros at last season's trade deadline.

NHL

FRIDAY’S ROUNDUP

Kings run win streak to 5 games

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Adrian Kempe scored at 1:14 of overtime to lift the visiting Los Angeles Kings to a 2-1 win against the Winnipeg Jets on Friday night in the opener of a five-game road trip.

Kempe brought the puck down the left side and scored with a wrist shot from the left circle for the seventh regular-season overtime goal of his career.

Kempe also assisted on Alex Turcotte’s goal, and Darcy Kuemper made 18 saves for the Kings, who have won five in a row.

Mark Scheifele scored and Eric Comrie made 21 saves for the Jets, who have dropped four of five (1-2-2).

Comrie has lost his past seven starts (0-6-1) while serving as the backup to Connor Hellebuyck, who leads the NHL in wins (25) and goals-against average (2.08).

Canadiens 3, Capitals 2, OT

Nick Suzuki scored with 3:45 left in overtime to lift visiting Montreal over Washington.

Cole Caufield scored in his fifth consecutive game for Montreal and assisted on Suzuki’s fifth game-winning goal of the season. Josh Anderson added a short-handed goal and rookie Jakub Dobes stopped 15 shots to help the Canadiens notch their third straight win and sixth over their last seven contests.

Jakob Chychrun and Lars Eller scored for Washington, which went beyond regulation for the third straight game (1-0-2). Logan Thompson made 18 saves in relief of Charlie Lindgren, who exited after being struck in the head during a collision with Suzuki early in the second period.

Eller tallied 1:54 into the third period to tie the game 2-2. In the extra session, Suzuki and Caufield had a two-on-one breakaway, and as the loose puck went toward the crease, Suzuki chipped it over Thompson for the game-winner.

Montreal finished with a 30-17 advantage in shots. It was just the third time this season — but the second straight contest — the Capitals posted fewer than 20 shots in a game.

Utah 2, Sharks 1

Barrett Hayton scored a late game-winning goal to give the host Utah Hockey Club a comeback victory over San Jose in Salt Lake City.

Nick Schmaltz also scored for Utah, which snapped a two-game skid and went into the clash with only one victory in seven outings. Goaltender Karel Vejmelka made 18 saves in a tight-checking, low-event affair.

Fabian Zetterlund replied for the Sharks, who have dropped two straight games and have only two victories in 12 games. Goalie Alexandar Georgiev



Los Angeles Kings forward Adrian Kempe (9) scores on Jets goalie Eric Comrie during overtime on Friday in Winnipeg. TERRENCE LEE/IMAGN IMAGES



The Montreal Canadiens’ Nick Suzuki, left, celebrates after scoring in overtime vs. the Capitals on Friday in Washington. GEOFF BURKE/IMAGN IMAGES

stopped 24 shots.

With overtime looming, Hayton gained the puck in the corner, skated to the top of the right circle and found the mark with his offering with 92 seconds remaining in regulation.

After Utah forward Kevin Stenlund received a high-sticking double-minor penalty with 56 seconds remaining on the clock, Vejmelka made a couple of key stops to preserve the victory.

Utah has scored two or fewer goals in eight of 10 outings, but came up with a rare win at home.

Red Wings 5, Blackhawks 3

Alex DeBrincat, Lucas Raymond and Marco Kasper had a goal and an assist apiece as host Detroit extended its winning streak to six games by topping Chicago.

Detroit’s Patrick Kane registered three assists and Albert Johansson

netted his first career goal. Andrew Copp also scored for the Red Wings, and Cam Talbot made 12 saves.

Teuvo Teravainen scored two third-period goals and Ryan Donato added the other tally for the Blackhawks. Connor Bedard extended his point streak to nine games with a first-period assist and Petr Mrazek made 23 saves as Chicago fell for the seventh time in nine games.

DeBrincat opened the scoring 4:26 into the game. Kane brought the puck into the Blackhawks’ zone and passed it to DeBrincat, who lifted the puck from the edge of the right circle over Mrazek’s left shoulder.

Just after the Blackhawks killed off a penalty, they tied the contest at 10:56 of the first period. Bedard set up Donato, who ripped a shot from the right circle that beat Talbot on the short side. Ilya Mikheyev had the second assist.

Hurricanes 2, Canucks 0

Jordan Staal scored again and Dustin Tokarski needed only 14 saves as Carolina defeated Vancouver in Raleigh, N.C.

Andrei Svechnikov also posted a goal for the Hurricanes, who won on back-to-back nights.

Staal’s goal pushed his season total to nine just about 24 hours after his hat trick against the Toronto Maple Leafs. The captain also assisted on Svechnikov’s goal.

The Hurricanes have won consecutive games for the first time since Dec. 15 and 17.

The Canucks, who were shutout victims for the third time this season and the second time in their last four games, have a four-game losing streak. They were making their third stop on a five-game road trip.

FRIDAY’S SUMMARIES

Detroit 5, Chicago 3				
Chicago	1	0	2	3
Detroit	1	1	3	5
First Period —1, Detroit, DeBrincat 18 (Kane, Holl), 4:26. 1, Chicago, Donato 12 (Bedard, Mikheyev), 10:56. Penalties—Donato, CHI (Tripping), 8:32. Bedard, CHI (Hooking), 19:44.				
Second Period —1, Detroit, Raymond 17 (DeBrincat, Kane), 0:41. Penalties—Maroon, CHI (Roughing), 14:50.				
Third Period —1, Detroit, Copp 8 (Gustafsson, Kane), 5:00. 1, Detroit, Johansson 1 (Raymond, Kasper), 7:07. 1, Chicago, Teravainen 8 (Allan, Dach), 10:16. 2, Chicago, Teravainen 9, 17:06. 1, Detroit, Kasper 3 (Edvinsson), 18:21. Penalties—Bedard, CHI (Hooking), 14:00.				
Shots on Goal —Chicago 5-2-8—15. Detroit 4-18-6—28.				
Power-play opportunities —Chicago 0 of 0; Detroit 1 of 4.				
Goalies —Chicago, Mrazek 8-15-1 (27 shots-23 saves). Detroit, Talbot 9-9-2 (15-12). A—19,515 (20,000).				

Montreal 3, Washington 2 (OT)				
Montreal	0	2	0	1
Washington	1	0	1	0
First Period —1, Washington, Chychrun 12, 2:56. Penalties—Pezetta, MTL (Tripping), 2:09. Struble, MTL (Hooking), 4:18. Dubois, WSH (Hooking), 18:54.				
Second Period —1, Montreal, Caufield 23 (Slafkovsky, Guhle), 4:56. 1, Montreal, Anderson 7, 13:22. Penalties—Frank, WSH (Tripping), 5:54. Dubois, WSH (Delay of Game), 8:13. Dach, MTL (Tripping), 11:58. Struble, MTL (Tripping), 14:03.				
Third Period —1, Washington, Eller 8 (Frank, Raddysih), 1:54. Penalties—None.				
Overtime —1, Montreal, Suzuki 13 (Caufield, Hutson), 1:15. Penalties—None.				
Shots on Goal —Montreal 7-13-8-2—30. Washington 6-4-7-0—17.				
Power-play opportunities —Montreal 0 of 3; Washington 1 of 4.				
Goalies —Montreal, Dobes 3-0-0 (17 shots-15 saves). Washington, Lindgren (9-9), Thompson (21-18). A—18,573 (18,398).				

Carolina 2, Vancouver 0				
Vancouver	0	0	0	0
Carolina	1	1	0	2
First Period —1, Carolina, Staal 9 (Orlov), 14:41. Penalties—Miller, VAN (Cross-checking), 12:09. Walker, CAR (Slashing), 17:59.				
Second Period —1, Carolina, Svechnikov 14 (Staal), 1:37. Penalties—Blueger, VAN (Roughing), 6:03. Staal, CAR (Roughing), 6:03.				
Third Period —None. Penalties—Chatfield, CAR (Tripping), 7:30. Chatfield, CAR (Tripping), 12:35. Forbort, VAN (High-sticking), 14:53. Hughes, VAN (Hooking), 19:55.				
Shots on Goal —Vancouver 5-4-5—14. Carolina 7-5-8—20.				
Power-play opportunities —Vancouver 0 of 3; Carolina 0 of 3.				
Goalies —Vancouver, Demko 2-2-3 (20 shots-18 saves). Carolina, Tokarski 4-1-0 (14-14). A—18,700 (18,680).				

L.A. Kings 2, Winnipeg 1 (OT)				
L.A. Kings	0	1	0	1
Winnipeg	0	0	1	0
First Period —None. Penalties—DeMelo, WPG (Hooking), 15:54.				
Second Period —1, L.A. Kings, Turcotte 5 (Kempe, Moverare), 4:39. Penalties—Scheifele, WPG (Tripping), 12:30. Scheifele, WPG (Tripping), 17:47.				
Third Period —1, Winnipeg, Scheifele 24 (Vilardi, Connor), 10:22. Penalties—Anderson, LAK (Interference), 6:46. Laferriere, LAK (Hooking), 9:58.				
Overtime —1, L.A. Kings, Kempe 20 (Clarke, Kopitar), 1:14. Penalties—None.				
Shots on Goal —L.A. Kings 6-9-7-1—23. Winnipeg 4-5-8-2—19.				
Power-play opportunities —L.A. Kings 0 of 3; Winnipeg 1 of 2.				
Goalies —L.A. Kings, Kuemper 12-2-5 (19 shots-18 saves). Winnipeg, Comrie (23-21). A—14,218 (15,294).				

Utah 2, San Jose 1				
San Jose	1	0	0	1
Utah	0	1	1	2
First Period —1, San Jose, Zetterlund 12 (Granlund, Ceci), 0:58. Penalties—Liljegren, SJS (Cross-checking), 4:54.				
Second Period —1, Utah, Schmaltz 7 (Keller, DeSimone), 5:57. Penalties—Hayton, UTA (Tripping), 7:21.				
Third Period —1, Utah, Hayton 8 (Bjugstad, Maatta), 18:28. Penalties—Stenlund, UTA (High-sticking), 19:04.				
Shots on Goal —San Jose 8-3-9—20. Utah 10-6-9—25.				
Power-play opportunities —San Jose 0 of 2; Utah 0 of 1.				
Goalies —San Jose, Georgiev 9-13-0 (25 shots-23 saves). Utah, Vejmelka 10-11-3 (20-19). A—11,131 (0).				

League Leaders Goal Scoring			
Name	Team	GP	G
Leon Draisaitl	Edmonton	41	31
Brayden Point	Tampa Bay	35	25
Mikko Rantanen	Colorado	43	25
William Nylander	Toronto	43	24
Kyle Connor	Winnipeg	42	23
Kirill Kaprizov	Minnesota	34	23
Sam Reinhart	Florida	42	23
Mark Scheifele	Winnipeg	42	23
Cole Caufield	Montreal	40	22
Jake Guentzel	Tampa Bay	38	21
Rickard Rakell	Pittsburgh	43	21
Travis Konecny	Philadelphia	42	20
John Tavares	Toronto	42	20
Brandon Hagel	Tampa Bay	39	19
Roope Hintz	Dallas	39	19
Nico Hischier	New Jersey	44	19
Adrian Kempe	L.A. Kings	38	19
Jordan Kyrou	St. Louis	43	19
Anders Lee	N.Y. Islanders	41	19
Alex Ovechkin	Washington	25	19

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN’S TOP 25 MARYLAND 79, NO. 22 UCLA 61

Gillespie pours in 27 as Terps cruise past Bruins

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Ja’Kobi Gillespie scored 16 of his career-high 27 points in the first half to put Maryland in charge on its way to a 79-61 victory over No. 22 UCLA in Big Ten play on Friday night in College Park, Md.

Julian Reese produced 16 points and 10 rebounds as the Terrapins (12-4, 2-3 Big Ten) ended a two-game slide and got their first win this year over a ranked team.

Selton Miguel scored nine of his 11 points in the second half for the Terrapins who took the lead midway through the first half and held it the rest of the way.

The Maryland defense forced UCLA to commit 21 turnovers. Gillespie had four steals as the Terrapins scored 26 points off the Bruins’ mistakes.

Tyler Bilodeau delivered 18 points for slumping UCLA (11-5, 2-3), which lost its third straight and fourth in its last five games.

The lone win was against powerhouse Gonzaga.

The Bruins’ frustration showed with 5:11 left as coach Mick Cronin drew two

technical fouls and an ejection. Gillespie followed with four free throws to push Maryland’s lead to 64-51.

In the final 4:01, Gillespie and Miguel drained 3-pointers as the Terrapins turned it into a runaway.

Trent Perry scored 10 points for the Bruins, who shot 41.5 percent from the floor and made 6-of-18 (33.3 percent) from 3-point range.

Meanwhile, the Terrapins made 54 percent of their shots and 7-of-19 (36.8 percent) from deep.

In the first half, UCLA bolted to an early lead before Maryland staged an 11-point burst that included two baskets from Gillespie and a three-point play from Derik Queen as the Terrapins grabbed a 20-13 lead.

A 9-2 Maryland spree, which Gillespie started with a triple and finished with a traditional three-point play, gave the Terrapins their biggest lead of the half at 38-28.

In the final 2:01 of the half, 3-pointers by Perry and Lazar Stefanovic helped UCLA slice the deficit to 40-36 at the break. But the Bruins got no closer in the second half.



Maryland guard Ja’Kobi Gillespie, right, celebrates with DeShawn Harris-Smith during Friday’s game against UCLA in College Park, Md. REGGIE HILDRED/IMAGN IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

BETTING LINE

NFL		
FAVORITE	Saturday LINE O/U	UNDERDOG
LA Chargers	3 42.5	HOUSTON
BALTIMORE	9.5 43.5	Pittsburgh

Sunday		
FAVORITE	LINE O/U	UNDERDOG
BUFFALO	8.5 47	Denver
PHILADELPHIA	5 45.5	Green Bay
TAMPA BAY	3 50	Washington

Monday		
FAVORITE	LINE O/U	UNDERDOG
Minnesota	2.5 47.5	L.A RAMS

All times Eastern

NFL

Playoffs

Saturday's Games
L.A. Chargers at Houston, 4:30 p.m., CBS
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 8 p.m., Amazon

Sunday, Jan. 12
Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m., CBS
Green Bay at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m., Fox
Washington at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m., NBC

Monday, Jan. 13
Minnesota at L.A. Rams, 8 p.m., ESPN/ABC

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	11	.711	—
N.Y. Knicks	25	14	.641	2½
Philadelphia	15	21	.417	11
Brooklyn	13	25	.342	14
Toronto	8	30	.211	19

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	22	18	.550	—
Miami	19	17	.528	1
Atlanta	19	19	.500	2
Charlotte	8	27	.229	11½
Washington	6	30	.167	14

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	33	4	.892	—
Milwaukee	20	16	.556	12½
Indiana	21	18	.538	13
Detroit	19	19	.500	14½
Chicago	18	20	.474	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	25	12	.676	—
Memphis	24	14	.632	1½
Dallas	22	16	.579	3½
San Antonio	18	19	.486	7
New Orleans	8	31	.205	18

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	31	6	.838	—
Denver	22	15	.595	9
Minnesota	20	17	.541	11
Portland	13	24	.351	18
Utah	9	27	.250	21½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	20	16	.556	—
L.A. Clippers	20	17	.541	½
Sacramento	19	19	.500	2
Golden State	19	19	.500	2
Phoenix	17	19	.472	3

Tuesday's Scores

Charlotte 115, Phoenix 104
Houston 135, Washington 112
Dallas 118, L.A. Lakers 97
Minnesota 104, New Orleans 97
Atlanta 124, Utah 121
Boston 118, Denver 106
Miami 114, Golden State 98

Wednesday's Scores

Cleveland 129, Oklahoma City 122
Indiana 129, Chicago 113
Philadelphia 109, Washington 103
Detroit 113, Brooklyn 98
N.Y. Knicks 112, Toronto 98
Portland 119, New Orleans 100
Denver 126, L.A. Clippers 103
Milwaukee 121, San Antonio 105

Thursday's Scores

Cleveland 132, Toronto 126
Golden State 107, Detroit 104
Minnesota 104, Orlando 89
Dallas 117, Portland 111
Houston 119, Memphis 115
Miami 97, Utah 92
Phoenix 123, Atlanta 115
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, ppd.

Friday's Scores

Indiana 108, Golden State 96
Milwaukee 109, Orlando 106
New Orleans 123, Philadelphia 115
Sacramento 114, Boston 97
Oklahoma City 126, N.Y. Knicks 101
Chicago 138, Washington 105
Denver 124, Brooklyn 105

Saturday's Games

Houston at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers, ppd.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, ppd.

Sunday's Games

Denver at Dallas, 3 p.m.
Milwaukee at N.Y. Knicks, 3 p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 3:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Boston, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Washington, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Brooklyn at Utah, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Monday's Games

Minnesota at Washington, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at N.Y. Knicks, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 8 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

League Leaders

Scoring Averages			
	GP	PTS	AVG
Jokic, DEN	31	977	31.5
Antetokounmpo, MIL	29	909	31.3
Giannis-Alexander, OKC	36	912	31.3
Tatum, BOS	34	957	28.2
Durant, PHX	26	707	27.2
Fox, SAC	35	933	26.7
Davis, LAL	34	878	25.8
Edwards, MIN	37	950	25.7
Moxley, PHI	29	740	25.5
Towns, NYK	35	886	25.3
Wembanyama, SAS	32	804	25.1
Brunson, NYK	37	925	25.0
Lillard, MIL	28	694	24.8
Booker, PHX	31	757	24.4
Irving, DAL	30	729	24.3
Cunningham, DET	34	825	24.3
Brown, BOS	30	718	23.9
James, LAL	33	787	23.9
Powell, LAC	30	712	23.7
Herrero, MIA	36	848	23.6

Field-Goal Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Kessler, UTA	137	192	.714
Gafford, DAL	168	237	.709
Allen, CLE	216	306	.706
Gobert, MIN	144	232	.621
Zubac, LAC	247	402	.614
Poeltl, TOR	215	351	.613
Antetokounmpo, MIL	360	601	.599
Sabonis, SAC	276	466	.592
Jackson-Davis, GSW	139	235	.591
Capela, ATL	164	284	.577
Mobley, CLE	255	444	.574
Ayton, POR	182	320	.569
Hart, NYK	202	357	.566
Thompson, HOU	168	299	.562
Braun, DEN	187	338	.558
Jokic, DEN	372	672	.554
Juevecic, CHI	296	535	.553
Valanciunas, WAS	172	311	.553
Towns, NYK	318	576	.552
Toppin, IND	141	256	.551

Free-Throw Percentage

	FT	FTA	PCT
Curry, GSW	96	103	.927
Embiid, PHI	103	112	.920
Lillard, MIL	175	191	.916
Garland, CLE	107	117	.915
Simons, POR	81	89	.910
Murphy II, NOP	79	87	.908
Valanciunas, WAS	69	76	.908
Suggs, ORL	97	107	.907
Sexton, UTA	112	124	.903
Rozier, MIA	55	61	.902
Irving, DAL	98	109	.899
Johnson, BKN	111	124	.895
Dick, TOR	92	103	.893
Giannis-Alexander, OKC	251	282	.890
Booker, PHX	193	217	.889

Miller, CHA	63	71	.887
Brogdon, WAS	62	70	.886
Monk, SAC	77	87	.885
Bridges, CHA	69	78	.885
Markkanen, UTA	129	146	.884

3-Point Field-Goal Percentage			
	3FG	3FGA	PCT
Jokic, DEN	71	149	.477
Kennard, MEM	51	111	.459
Green, MIL	80	176	.455
Towns, NYK	76	169	.450
LeVert, CLE	57	128	.445
LaVine, CHI	104	234	.444
Prince, MIL	58	131	.443
Irving, DAL	93	211	.441
O'Neale, PHX	78	177	.441
Collins, UTA	39	89	.438
Powell, LAC	107	245	.437
Coffey, LAC	61	140	.436
Johnson, BKN	105	241	.436
Finney-Smith, LAL	55	127	.433
Hunter, ATL	74	171	.433
Garland, CLE	106	245	.433
Battle, TOR	44	102	.431
James, PHX	78	181	.431
Sexton, UTA	71	165	.430
Sensabaugh, UTA	50	117	.427

Rebounds Per Game			
	GP	OFF	DEF
Towns, NYK	35	106	384
Sabonis, SAC	34	130	339
Jokic, DEN	31	108	296
Zubac, LAC	37	140	324
Davis, LAL	34	89	314
Antetokounmpo, MIL	29	59	283
Kessler, UTA	30	123	341
Wembanyama, SAS	32	60	285
Gobert, MIN	37	128	267
Sengun, HOU	37	126	264
Poeltl, TOR	33	120	225
Allen, CLE	37	98	282
Johnson, ATL	32	59	266
Ayton, POR	28	81	202
Juevecic, CHI	36	81	281
Adebayo, MIA	36	85	266
Duren, DET	35	112	218
Tatum, BOS	34	219	314
Hart, NYK	37	73	264
Capela, ATL	38	125	215

Assists Per Game			
	GP	AST	AVG
Young, ATL	36	434	12.1
Jokic, DEN	31	301	9.7
Cunningham, DET	34	316	9.3
Haliburton, IND	38	338	8.9
James, LAL	33	292	8.9
Paul, SAS	37	308	8.3
Harden, LAC	35	275	7.9
Brunson, NYK	37	280	7.6
Lillard, MIL	28	206	7.4
Booker, PHX	31	216	7.0
Simmons, BKN	26	179	6.9
Garland, CLE	36	242	6.7
Giddey, CHI	33	221	6.7
Westbrook, DEN	36	240	6.7
Sabonis, SAC	34	214	6.3
Murray, DEN	30	188	6.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	29	179	6.2
Fox, SAC	35	216	6.2
Curry, GSW	30	182	6.1
Jones, PHX	35	211	6.0

Steals Per Game			
	GP	STL	AVG
Daniels, ATL	34	100	3.12
Maxey, PHI	29	60	2.07
Giannis-Alexander, OKC	36	71	1.97
Williams, OKC	36	65	1.81
Wallace, OKC	35	61	1.74
Jokic, DEN	31	53	1.71
Westbrook, DEN	36	60	1.67
Poole, WAS	28	46	1.64
Caldwell-Pope, ORL	38	62	1.63
Fox, SAC	35	57	1.63
VanVleet, HOU	35	57	1.63
Murray, DEN	30	48	1.60
Dunn, LAC	37	59	1.59
Adebayo, MIA	36	56	1.56
Jackson Jr., MEM	36	54	1.50
Johnson, ATL	32	48	1.50
Suggs, ORL	34	50	1.47
Harden, LAC	35	51	1.46
Anunoby, NYK	38	55	1.45
Hart, NYK	37	53	1.43

Blocks Per Game			
	GP	BLK	AVG
Wembanyama, SAS	32	127	3.97
Kessler, UTA	30	76	2.53
Davis, LAL	34	73	2.15
Turner, IND	35	73	2.09
Lopez, MIL	35	66	1.89
Jackson Jr., MEM	36	63	1.75
Lively II, DAL	30	52	1.73
Bitadze, ORL	34	57	1.68
Sarr, WAS	31	49	1.58
Clingan, POR	29	45	1.55
Gobert, MIN	37	55	1.49
Mobley, CLE	35	51	1.46
Antetokounmpo, MIL	29	42	1.45
Gafford, DAL	36	52	1.44
Missi, NOP	37	52	1.41
Stewart, PHX	26	35	1.35
Stewart, DET	34	45	1.32
Isaac, ORL	33	43	1.30
Poeltl, TOR	33	41	1.24
White, BOS	35	43	1.23

NHL

Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	27	14	2	56	135	121
Florida	25	15	2	52	130	128
Tampa Bay	20	19	4	46	144	108
Boston	20	19	5	45	112	139
Montreal	20	18	3	43	125	138
Detroit	19	18	4	42	115	131
Ottawa	19	18	3	41	114	118
Buffalo	16	21	5	37	130	140

Metropolitan Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	27	10	5	59	152	112
Carolina	26	15	2	54	145	120
New Jersey	25	15	4	54	139	112
Columbus	19	17	6	44	147	150
Pittsburgh	18	17	8	44	133	159
N.Y. Rangers	19	20	2	40	120	130
N.Y. Islanders	16	18	7	39	112	128
Philadelphia	17	20	5	39	126	151

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	28	12	3	59	153	108
Minnesota	26	12	4	56	128	117
Dallas	26	13	1	53	132	100
Colorado	26	16	1	53	147	135
St. Louis	20	19	4	44	124	131
Utah	18	16	7	43	116	123
Nashville	13	21	7	33	100	128
Chicago	14	26	2	30	108	143